

Stewards Hearing Report

Date of Hearing: 01 December 2023
Venue of Hearing: Healesville Greyhound Association
Name: Mr. Brent Merton
Rule: **GAR 165(a)**

Offence: Following Race 2 at the Healesville Greyhound Association race meeting on 01 December 2023, Mr. Brent Merton engaged in conduct that was detrimental to the interest and image of greyhound racing.

Officiating Stewards: Mr. Max Hayden-Evans & Ms. Roslyn Fazulla

REPORT

On Friday, 01 December 2023, GRV Stewards opened and finalised an inquiry into the conduct of licensed person Mr. Brent Merton whilst in the wash bay area following Race 2 of the Healesville Greyhound Association race meeting on 01 December 2023.

Stewards heard evidence from Mr. Brent Merton, Ms. Kathleen Newport, and other witnesses to the incident. After considering these submissions, as well as CCTV footage of the incident, Mr. Merton was issued with a charge under GAR 165(a) which reads;

GAR 165 - Conduct detrimental to the interests of greyhound racing. An offence is committed if a person (including an official): (a) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing;

The particulars being that at the Healesville Greyhound Association race meeting on 1 December 2023, Mr. Merton conducted himself in a manner that was detrimental to the interest and image of greyhound racing by speaking in a loud and hostile manner and acting aggressively toward registered participant Ms. Kathleen Newport.

Mr. Merton pleaded not guilty to the charge. Mr. Merton was found guilty as charged. After considering submissions on penalty, the Stewards issued Mr. Merton with a three (3) month suspension, with two (2) months of this suspension suspended for twenty-four (24) months from 1 December 2023, pending no further conduct related offences during this time.

In determining penalty, Stewards took into consideration:

- Mr. Merton's record with GRV.
- The recency and number of similar rule breaches by Mr. Merton.
- General and specific deterrence.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence.

Paul Searle

Paul SEARLE
CHIEF STEWARD - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

NB: Steward Investigation/Hearing decisions are subject to Appeal under the Rules of Greyhound Racing.