

Stewards Investigation & Hearing Report

Date of Incident:	7 September 2023
Venue of Hearing:	GRV Head Office
Event:	No Race in Race 8 at Warrnambool on 7 September 2023
Rule:	GAR 110 and GAR 97
Inquiry:	At the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club on Thursday 7 September 2023, Race 8 was declared a “No Race” after Federal Fernando (8) jumped from the wrong starting box (7) and wore the incorrect rug (7).
Reporting Steward:	Mr Paul Searle – Chief Steward

REPORT

At the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club on Thursday 7 September 2023, Race 8 was declared a “No Race” after Federal Fernando (8) jumped from the wrong starting box (7) and wore the incorrect race rug (7). The Stewards report read as follows:

A pre-race sample was taken from Manipulation.

Stewards withheld the All Clear due to a greyhound wearing the number seven (7) rug competing in the event. After reviewing all available footage and checking the identity of the 7 greyhound, it was established that (8) Federal Fernando was wearing the number seven (7) rug and started from (the incorrect) starting box seven (7); when in fact Federal Fernando was drawn to wear the number eight (8) rug and start from box eight (8). As such, pursuant to GAR 110, the event was declared a ‘No Race’. All bets are to be refunded. The weights recorded for the greyhounds are void and do not count for the purposes of the weight rule at the greyhounds’ next start. The event was then abandoned, with prizemoney to be split evenly between the greyhounds which competed.

The stewards opened an inquiry into the matter whereby evidence was taken from the handler of Federal Fernando and all the relevant race-day officials. This matter has been referred to the Chief Steward for further investigation.

The race was not conducted in accordance with the box draw conducted for the race under GAR 85, and the race did not occur as advertised. Betting was offered and occurred on a set of material facts and circumstances that did not eventuate.

The Stewards correctly declared the event a No Race pursuant to GAR 110 and then abandoned the race in accordance with GAR 111. All betting was refunded.

Stewards opened an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Federal Fernando (8) jumping from the wrong starting box (7) and wearing the incorrect rug (7).

After taking evidence from several persons, the matter was adjourned and referred to the Chief Steward to undertake the investigation into the matter.

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

The Investigation identified several critical failures of process that allowed the initial error of Federal Fernando being incorrectly rugged by registered person Mrs Christine Yourgules to perpetuate.

These failures were attributed to human error and a failure to follow the established and embedded process, (checks and balances) for each role. The investigation identified the following errors (in order of occurrence) and took the following action. It is not in any way related to the level of fault:

Handler – Mrs Christine Yourgules placed the incorrect rug (7) on Federal Fernando instead of rug (8). Mrs Yourgules was issued a charge under GAR 156 (f) for negligence only. Mrs Yourgules pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$250.

Scanning Out Steward - Failed to identify that the incorrect rug (7) was on Federal Fernando instead of rug (8). The Steward is subject to an internal disciplinary procedure in accordance with their Employment Agreement with GRV.

Parade Official – Failed to identify that the incorrect rug (7) was on Federal Fernando instead of rug (8) prior to leaving the kennel area, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure for this role. The Parade Official has already completed refresher session on the Standard Operating Procedures for the role with their Manager and is subject to internal disciplinary procedures in accordance with their Employment Agreement with the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club.

Race Starter – Failed to correctly address that the incorrect rug (7) was on Federal Fernando instead of rug (8) when arriving at the starting boxes, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure for this role. Failed to ensure that Federal Fernando jumped from the correct starting box (8) instead of the incorrect starting box (7). The Starter has already completed a refresher session on the Standard Operating Procedures for the role with their Manager and is subject to internal disciplinary procedures in accordance with their Employment Agreement with the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club.

Steward at Start – Failed to identify that the incorrect race rug (7) was on Federal Fernando instead of rug (8). The Steward is subject to internal disciplinary procedures in accordance with their Employment Agreement with GRV.

GRV Stewards will continue to review current rugging procedures across all race-venues in Victoria, with a view to implement any procedural improvements that are identified.



.....
PAUL SEARLE
CHIEF STEWARD - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

22 September 2023