

Investigative Stewards Hearing Report

Monday 30th January 2023

Date of Hearing: Monday 30th January 2023
Venue of Hearing: Geelong Greyhound Racing Club
Name: Mr Michael GIBBONS
Date of offence: Wednesday 21st September 2022 & 18 November 2022

Rule: Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 165 (a)
Offence: 165(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;*

Officiating Investigative Stewards: Mr Chris Gawne and Mr Dylan Bartolo

REPORT

On Thursday, 30th January 2023, Investigative Stewards opened an Inquiry with Mr Michael Gibbons considering two (2) charges of him engaging in conduct which was detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control of greyhound racing that had occurred when he made a post on Aussie Greyhound Forums social media site.

CHARGE 1

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;

Relates to a post on the forum on Wednesday 21st September 2022. In this post Gibbons makes comments which are detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of Greyhound Racing.

Mr Gibbons pleaded not guilty to the charge.

CHARGE 2

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;

Relates to a post on the same forum on Wednesday 18th November 2022, under a post titled "That's a new one" when he posted the following comment critical of GRV and Race Day Stewards.

In this post Gibbons makes comments which are detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of Greyhound Racing.

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

Mr Gibbons pleaded guilty to the charge. The Hearing was adjourned to date to be fixed for consideration of evidence as to Charge 1.

HEARING RESUMPTION:

The hearing of the matter was re-opened at 8.30 am on Thursday 16th February 2023. All charges were found proven.

PENALTY

Charge 1 & 2.

- 3 month suspension with 2 months suspension suspended for a period of 24 months.
- \$500 fine with \$250 suspended for 24 months.

All suspended penalties will be fully installed for any other conduct related offences committed during this period of 24 months.

In determining penalty, Investigative Stewards considered a number of factors namely:

- Mr Gibbons explanation around his behaviour and guilty plea to Charge 2.
- The post was removed the next day and a formal apology was made to the Steward.
- Mr Gibbons prior history of similar type offending.
- That this is a forum on Social Media which any many of the public can join with offensive and inappropriate comments made on two (2) separate occasions.
- Specific and general deterrence.



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Chris Gawne
Investigative Steward
Greyhound Racing Integrity Unit