

Stewards Hearing Report

Date of Hearing: 28 February 2023
Venue of Hearing: Healesville Greyhound Racing Club
Name: Ms. Maria Barber
Rule: **GAR 165 (a)**

Offence: Engaged in conduct that was detrimental and/or prejudicial to the image and control of greyhound racing by speaking in a loud and hostile manner toward GRV Veterinarian Dr. Madonna Buiters whilst in the presence of Stewards and a registered participant.

Officiating Stewards: Mrs. Heather Harvey & Mr. Max Hayden-Evans

REPORT

On Tuesday 28 February 2023, GRV Stewards finalised an inquiry into the conduct of licensed person Ms. Maria Barber when in the kennel block at the Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club Meeting on 22 February 2023.

Stewards heard evidence from Trainer Ms. Maria Barber and GRV Steward Mr. Cory Berkhout. After considering all the evidence, Ms. Barber was issued with a charge under GAR 165 (a);

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 Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club on 22 February 2023, Ms. Barber conducted herself in a manner that was detrimental and/or prejudicial to the image and/or control of greyhound racing by speaking in a loud and hostile manner towards GRV Veterinarian Dr. Madonna Buiters in the kennel block, whilst in the presence of Stewards and a registered participant.

Ms. Barber pleaded not guilty to the charge. Stewards found Ms. Barber guilty as charged. After considering submissions on penalty, the Stewards issued Ms. Barber with a fine of \$500 for the offence, with half suspended for 24 months, pending no further conduct related offences during this time.

In determining penalty, Stewards took into consideration:

- Ms. Barber's antecedence and record with GRV.
- The degree of remorse Ms. Barber had shown following the incident.
- General and specific deterrence.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence.



Alex KITCHING
A/CHIEF STEWARD - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

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