

25 January 2023

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **PATRICK BULL**

- Date of hearing:** 11 January 2023
- Panel:** Justice Shane Marshall (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Heidi Keighran.
- Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Patrick Bull represented himself.
- Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2) states:  
(2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-  
(a) nominated to compete in an Event;  
(b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or  
(c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revoked shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
- Particulars of charge:**
1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
  2. You were at all relevant times the trainer of the greyhound “Taltarni Black”.
  3. Taltarni Black was nominated to compete in Race 8, MADE SOLUTIONS ELECTRICAL AND DATA, Grade 5, conducted by the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association at Bendigo on 29 April 2022 (the Event).
  4. On 29 April 2022, you presented Taltarni Black at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “Taltarni Black” at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine were detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## DECISION

1. Mr Patrick Bull is a registered greyhound trainer who has been training greyhounds for about 12 years, but has had a long involvement in the industry. He has pleaded guilty to a charge under Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2) as it stood. The charge concerns a presentation offence regarding the greyhound “Taltarni Black”.
  2. Mr Bull pleaded guilty at the first opportunity. He failed to present Taltarni Black for an event free of a prohibited substance on 29 April 2022 at Bendigo given that the greyhound tested positive to caffeine and its metabolites. The greyhound lived in Mr Bull’s home and three or four days before the event, it appears that the greyhound ate some chocolate coated liquorice which had been left on a table by Mr Bull.
  3. Chocolate contains caffeine. Mr Bull admitted that he was careless in not securing food containing caffeine.
  4. In setting a penalty, we take into account the early guilty plea and the principles of general and specific deterrence, as well as the importance of having a level playing field by keeping a drug free industry. We have had regard to Mr Bull’s good record, as well as recent penalties in like cases.
  5. In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of three months suspension, fully suspended for 24 months pending no further breach of a provision of the Rules dealing with prohibited substances in that time. We also impose a \$300 fine.
  6. In addition, “Taltarni Black” is disqualified from Race 8 at Bendigo on 29 April 2022.
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Kathleen Scully  
Acting Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal