

## Investigative Stewards Hearing Report

**Friday 23 February 2024**

Date of Hearing: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024  
Venue of Hearing: Greyhound Racing Victoria Head Office  
Name: Mr Joseph Abela  
Date of offence: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2023  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024

Rule: **Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 165 (c) (iii)**

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

Rule: **GRV Local Rules [LR] 68.1.3**

Rule: **GRV Local Rules [LR] 68.1.3**

Officiating Chairman & Investigative Steward: Mr Dylan Bartolo

### **REPORT**

On Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, Investigative Stewards held an Inquiry with Mr Joseph Abela considering four (4) charges relating to two (2) attendances at the Warragul Greyhound Racetrack whilst under a period of licence suspension.

On Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2024, Chairman Mr Dylan Bartolo held a Stewards Hearing with Mr Abela relating to the abovementioned charges. Mr Abela attended the Warragul Greyhound Racetrack on two occasions between the dates of the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 and the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. Mr Abela engaged in detrimental conduct during his second attendance at the Warragul Greyhound Racetrack. Mr Abela expressed sincere remorse for his actions.

The charges are as follows:

### **CHARGE 1**

#### ***Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 165 (c) (iii)***

Relates to Mr Abela's attendance at the Warragul Greyhound Racetrack on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 where he engaged in conduct that was insulting, improper and offensive towards an employee of a Club.

Mr Abela pleaded guilty to the charge. The charge was found proven.

### **CHARGE 2**

#### ***Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 165 (a)***

Relates to Mr Abela's attendance at the Warragul Greyhound Racetrack on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 where his attendance attracted the attention and intervention of Victoria Police.

Mr Abela pleaded not guilty to the charge. The charge was found proven.

### **CHARGE 3**

#### ***GRV Local Rules [LR] 68.1.3***

Relates to Mr Abela's attendance at the Warragul Greyhound Racetrack on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 whilst Mr Abela was subject to a period of licence suspension.

Mr Abela pleaded not guilty to the charge. The charge was found proven.

### **CHARGE 4**

#### ***GRV Local Rules [LR] 68.1.3***

Relates to Mr Abela's attendance at the Warragul Greyhound Racetrack on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 whilst Mr Abela was subject to a period of licence suspension.

Mr Abela pleaded not guilty to the charge. The charge was found proven.

Officiating Chairman found the four charges proven and imposed the following penalty.

### **PENALTY**

#### **Charge 1 and 2**


- \$1,500 fine (\$500 wholly suspended for 12 months).

#### **Charge 3 and 4**

- 4 months suspension wholly suspended for a period of 12 months.

In determining penalty, the Chairman considered several factors namely:

- Mr Abela's time spent in the Greyhound Racing Industry and his history of compliance.
- Mr Abela's plea of guilty to charge 1.
- Mr Abela's age and current mental health status.
- Specific and general deterrence.



**Mr Dylan Bartolo**  
Investigative Steward  
**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**