

Stewards Hearing Report

Date of Hearing: 15 March 2024
Venue of Hearing: Telephone Hearing (Bendigo Greyhound Racing Club)
Name: Mr Mathew Wright
Rule: GAR 76 (7)
Offence: Withdrawing Ice Bath Forth from Race 11 at Bendigo on 8 March 2024 for an unacceptable reason (in the opinion of the Stewards).
Officiating Stewards: Mr Paul Searle and Mr Alex Kitching

REPORT

On Friday 15 March 2024, GRV Stewards finalised an inquiry into the withdrawal of Ice Bath Forth from Race 11 at the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Club race-meeting held on 8 March 2024.

Evidence was taken from Steward Ms Ros Fazulla, Trainer Mr Mathew Wright as well as accepting other material relevant to the race meeting's track condition and veterinary reports. The race vision of several races was included in the inquiry.

After considering the totality of the evidence, Mr Wright was issued with a charge under GAR 76 (7), which reads;

GAR 76 Scratching's after box draw. (7) An offence by an owner or trainer is committed if, in the opinion of the Stewards, a greyhound is scratched from an Event for an unacceptable reason.

The particulars being (broadly) that at the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Club race-meeting held on Friday 8 March 2024, Mr Wright refused to race Ice Bath Forth in Race 11 (which caused the greyhound to be late scratching) due to his opinion of an unsuitable racing surface, which in the opinion of the Stewards was a scratching for an unacceptable reason.

Mr Wright acknowledged the offence and pleaded guilty to the charge. After considering submissions on penalty, the Stewards issued Mr Wright a fine of \$1000, with \$600 of that suspended for 24 months (until 14 March 2026) pending no further like matters. Ice Bath Forth (who has been stood-down under GAR 169 (5) since 8 March) will also receive an official 10-day stand-down, effective from 8 March 2024 and to expire at 11.59pm on 17 March 2024.

In determining penalty, Stewards took into consideration:

- Mr Wrights personnel antecedence, guilty plea, acknowledgment of offence and good record with GRV.
- Mr Wrights reasoning for not racing Ice Bath Forth.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence
- The somewhat unique situation at hand on location.
- General and specific deterrence.

Of note, this offence had somewhat unique circumstances at hand; and Stewards advise that this penalty was significantly mitigated and presents as being significantly lower than what may otherwise apply to these matters.



Paul SEARLE
CHIEF STEWARD - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

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