

## Stewards Hearing Report

**Date:** Monday, 22 April 2024  
**Venue:** GRV Offices, Chetwynd Street  
**Name:** Mr. Joe Borg  
**Rule:** GAR 76(7)  
**Matter:** Late scratching of Awesome Avenger and Blistered Earth from Race 8 at Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club on Sunday, 14 April 2024.  
**Officiating Stewards:** Andrew Spence (Acting Chief Steward)  
Roslyn Fazulla (Acting Deputy Chief Steward)  
Max Hayden-Evans (Senior Steward – Central Region)

### Report

On Monday, 22 April 2024 at the GRV Offices, Stewards finalised an inquiry into the late scratchings of Awesome Avenger and Blistered Earth from Race 8 at the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club race meeting held on Sunday, 14 April 2024.

Evidence was taken from Mr. Joe Borg (trainer's representative), Mr. Rod Oppenhuis (owner of Awesome Avenger) and Mr. Michael Crowe (owner of Blistered Earth). Stewards also considered race replays, reports, and other materials relevant to the track condition at the race meeting.

After carefully considering all the available evidence, Stewards could not be comfortably satisfied that the scratchings of Awesome Avenger and Blistered Earth were for an unacceptable reason, and therefore were not in breach of GAR 76(7).

#### ***76 Scratchings 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.*

Stewards noted the unique circumstances of this individual case and note that it is not standard practice to scratch greyhounds in this manner, nor is it expressly permitted under the Greyhound Racing Victoria Rules of Racing. Stewards do not view this matter as setting a precedent for any future instances of a similar nature and reinforce that every case will be considered on its own merits.

#### **Andrew Spence**

Acting Chief Steward

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**