

22 January 2023

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **BRIAN HODGSON**

- Date of hearing:** 11 January 2024
- Panel:** Justice Shane Marshall (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Robert Abrahams.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Brian Hodgson represented himself.
- Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1) states:  
(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:  
(a) nominated to compete in an Event;  
(b) presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or  
(c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a stand-down period being varied or revoked,  
must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
- Particulars:**
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 “Major Currency”.
  3. Major Currency was nominated to compete in Race 9, CARDROOS MEMORIAL HT3, Grade 5 Heat, conducted by the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club at Horsham on 31 January 2023 (the Event).

4. On 31 January 2023, you presented Major Currency at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from Major Currency at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Guaifenesin was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## **DECISION**

1. Mr Brian Hodgson is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the greyhound "Major Currency". That greyhound competed in and won Race 9 at Horsham on 31 January 2023.
2. A post-race swab revealed the presence of guaifenesin. That drug is a prohibited substance under the Greyhounds Australasia Rules ("GARs"). It is a therapeutic substance which acts as a muscle relaxant. It is often used on horses before they are euthanised. It is often transmitted to greyhounds by the eating of knackery meat. It is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound, usually in a negative way, by acting as a relaxant.
3. Mr Hodgson told Stewards that he had been using knackery meat for a long time. He said he was unaware of the warnings given by Greyhound Racing Victoria ("GRV") in recent years about feeding greyhounds knackery meat. After the positive swab in this matter and discussions held in the hearing, he will no longer be using knackery meat.
4. GRV Stewards have charged Mr Hodgson with presenting a greyhound for an event while not free of a prohibited substance contrary to GAR 141(1). Mr Hodgson pleaded guilty to the charge.
5. In setting a penalty, we take into account general and specific deterrence and the importance of having a level playing field by striving for a drug free industry. We also take into account penalties given in recent like matters. We further take into consideration Mr Hodgson's clean record for prohibited substance offences over many years and his cooperation with the Stewards, as well as the guilty plea.

6. In all the circumstances, we impose a fine of \$1,500 with \$500 suspended for a period of 24 months, pending no further breach of the Rules of greyhound racing regarding prohibited substances.
  7. In addition, Major Currency is disqualified from Race 9 at Horsham on 31 January 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.
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Kathleen Scully  
Acting Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal