

16 January 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

GREGORY McLACHLAN

- Date of hearing:** 9 January 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Amanda Dickens.
- Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Gregory McLachlan 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 “Power Charge”.
 3. Power Charge was nominated to compete in Race 1, SPORTSBET BS RESPONSIBLY, Tier 3 – Maiden, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 7 April 2023 (the Event).
 4. On 7 April 2023, you presented Power Charge at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Atenolol was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Mr Gregory McLachlan is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GARs”). He is the licensed trainer of the greyhound, “Power Charge”.

Power Charge was nominated to compete in Race 1, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 7 April 2023. Power Charge was presented for the event whilst not free of any prohibited substance. A post-race urine sample detected atenolol.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, confirmed that atenolol is a prohibited substance as defined by the GARs. It is placed in the category stimulants, depressants and other prohibited substances of the GRV Penalty Guidelines.

During the kennel inspection, Mr McLachlan produced personal medication, being “Atenolol Sandoz 50 mg tablets x 30”, which had been prescribed by his doctor. Dr Karamatic said that the medication is the likely source of the positive sample. The treatment records did not detail the administration of atenolol to the greyhound. Atenolol is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound, with any effect on performance more likely to be negative.

Dr Karamatic referred to notices to the industry by GRV, in particular GRV’s Feeding Medication and Supplement Guidelines published in August 2016. He also referred to further warnings in the July 2010 edition of Greyhound Monthly Victoria, warning participants of inadvertent positive swabs from the use of personal medications.

Mr McLachlan pleaded guilty to the offence at an early stage and has cooperated throughout the investigation with the Stewards.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account his guilty plea, his cooperation with the Stewards and the importance of specific and general deterrence. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We take into consideration recent penalties in like matters.

Mr McLachlan has been licensed for approximately 27 years and has no relevant prior offences. He has an excellent record. We accept his evidence that this was inadvertent and that he now wears gloves when mixing the dog food. He puts the worming tablets in the dog food and avoids putting them the dogs' throats. He now feeds the dogs before taking his personal medication.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of two months suspension, wholly suspended for 24 months, pending no further breach of the Rules of greyhound racing relative to prohibited substances. We also impose a fine of \$500.

In addition, Power Charge is disqualified from Race 1 at Healesville on 7 April 2023 and the prize money is forfeited to GRV.

Kathleen Scully
Acting Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal