

3 October 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

TYLLAH BORELAND

- Date of hearing:** 16 September 2024
- Date of decision:** 16 September 2024
- Panel:** Judge Marilyn Harbison (Deputy Chairperson), Dr June Smith and Ms Amanda Dickens.
- Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr John Boreland represented Ms Tyllah Boreland.
- Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1) reads as follows:

Rule 141 Greyhound to be free of prohibited substances

(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 of Charge

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 *"Immunity Idol"*.
3. *"Immunity Idol"* was nominated to compete in Race 11, MONTROSE IGA LIQUOR, Grade 5, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Club at Healesville on 14 January 2024 (**the Event**).
4. On 14 January 2024, you presented *"Immunity Idol"* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
 - (a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *"Immunity Idol"* at the Event (**the Sample**);
 - (b) Amphetamine, Hydroxyamphetamine, Methamphetamine and Hydroxymethamphetamine were detected in the sample.
5. Amphetamine, Hydroxyamphetamine, Methamphetamine and Hydroxymethamphetamine are Permanently Banned Prohibited Substances.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

1. Ms Tyllah Boreland is a registered greyhound trainer, as is her husband, Mr John Boreland. On 14 January 2024, a greyhound trained by her, named Immunity Idol was tested by way of a pre-race sample of urine. The sample was found to contain the substances Amphetamine, and its metabolites Hydroxyamphetamine, Methamphetamine and Hydroxymethamphetamine.
2. She therefore faces one presentation charge in relation to this greyhound. She has pleaded guilty to this charge.
3. On 22 February 2024, the Stewards attended her property to advise her of that positive result.
4. On the same day a clearance swab was taken from Immunity Idol. This test swab was rated clear to race, but did still contain traces of amphetamine and its metabolites.
5. When the Stewards interviewed Ms Boreland on 22 March 2004, she said that she believed that the contamination found in the swab of Immunity Idol occurred as a result of cross contamination from a person employed at the kennels. She said that person had admitted to using methamphetamines and had been sacked when methamphetamines had been detected in some of the kennelled dogs. She said that she and her husband had

arranged for drug testing of all of the staff members who had contact with her dogs. However, the particular staff member who had admitted use of methamphetamines did not wish to comply with the drug testing.

6. Her husband is also facing several charges relating to the presence of this substance in dogs trained by him.
7. The Stewards were unable to find anything on the property which would account for the presence of methamphetamine and its metabolites in her dogs, or in her husband's dogs.
8. She was pregnant at the time of the offence and because of her pregnancy she had minimal contact with her dogs, that task being undertaken by her husband.
9. She has been registered as a catcher since 2013, and as a trainer since 2020. She grew up in a family devoted to greyhound racing and has been involved with various aspects of greyhound racing all her life.
10. She has no prior offences. She has pleaded guilty to the charge and has been extremely co-operative with the investigating Stewards.
11. She comes before us at a time when she is living through a tragic situation. Her four-month-old baby has recently died. This occurred during a time when she and her husband were being investigated by the Stewards in relation to the presence of methamphetamines at their kennels. The kennels are situated on a large property which is owned by her in-laws. The couple has spent well over \$400,000 on improvements to the property solely to accommodate their involvement in the greyhound industry.
12. The couple lived at the property with the in-laws until quite recently. They moved out of the property into rented accommodation when it became clear that they may be facing a period of disqualification because of these offences. Tragically the baby died in that rented house. The couple have been unable to stay in that house as it triggers traumatic memories of this event. They have therefore been forced to break the lease on that rented house and to rent yet another property elsewhere. They are still bound to pay rent on the property they have vacated.
13. The requirement to pay rent on now two properties, not just one, and the realisation that their facing a likely inability to work within the greyhound industry as a result of these charges has put them in a perilous financial and emotional state.
14. We acknowledge that in sentencing Mrs Boreland for this offence we must place emphasis on general deterrence. It is of the utmost importance that a drug free

environment is maintained within greyhound racing. Further, the substance involved in this case is a permanently prohibited substance. This places it in a more serious category than presentation offences involving lesser drugs.

15. Taking all the circumstances into account, the penalty that we impose on this charge is a period of suspension of six months. We suspend 3 months of that period for a period of 12 months, making an effective period of suspension of three months.
16. We disqualify Immunity Idol from the Race 11 at Healesville on 14 January 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal