GREYHOUND RACING INTEGRITY & WELFARE

Investigative Stewards Hearing Report

Friday, 20 March 2026

Date of Hearing:	Friday 20 March 2026
Venue of Hearing:	Geelong Greyhound Racing Club
Name:	Mr Michael Gibbons
Date of offence:	Saturday 06 September 2025 & Thursday 19 March 2026
Rule:	**Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 156 (w)** **Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 165 (a)**

Officiating Investigative Steward: Mr Joshua Goldenberg (Chairman) & Mr Paul Cosgrove

REPORT

On Friday, 20 March 2026, Investigative Stewards conducted an Inquiry with Mr Michael Gibbons in relation to public and online social media posts alleged to be detrimental to the greyhound racing industry and in breach of the GRV Social Media Guidelines.

On the same date, Investigative Stewards conducted a Stewards Hearing with Mr Gibbons dealing with four (4) charges as follows:

CHARGE 1

Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 156 (w)

This charge relates to a social media post and associated comments published on Saturday, 6 September 2025, the content of which breached the GRV Social Media Guidelines by making comments detrimental to the greyhound racing industry, or to any person, activity, or organisation involved in it.

Mr Gibbons pleaded guilty to the charge.

CHARGE 2

Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 165 (a)

This charge relates to the same social media post published on Saturday, 6 September 2025, whereby Mr Gibbons engaged in conduct that was detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control, or promotion of Greyhound Racing.

Mr Gibbons pleaded guilty to the charge.

CHARGE 3

Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 156 (w)

This charge relates to a social media post and associated comments published on Thursday, 19 March 2026, the content of which breached the GRV Social Media Guidelines by making comments detrimental to the greyhound racing industry, or to any person, activity, or organisation involved in it.

Mr Gibbons pleaded guilty to the charge.

CHARGE 4

Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 165 (a)

This charge relates to the same social media post published on Thursday, 19 March 2026, whereby Mr Gibbons engaged in conduct that was detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control, or promotion of Greyhound Racing.

Mr Gibbons pleaded guilty to the charge.

PENALTY

Charge 1

12-month disqualification.

Charge 2

12-month disqualification (to be served concurrently)

Charge 3

12-month disqualification (to be served concurrently)

Charge 4

12-month disqualification (to be served concurrently)

In determining the penalty, Investigative Stewards considered the following factors namely:

- Mr Gibbons' explanation regarding the conduct.
- The frequency and repeated nature of Mr Gibbons' breaches of the Social Media Guidelines, demonstrating an ongoing pattern of behaviour rather than an isolated incident.
- Mr Gibbons' guilty pleas.
- The need for both specific and general deterrence, and for Greyhound Racing Victoria to send a clear and unequivocal message that such conduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated within the industry.
- The Investigative Stewards regard gender-targeted conduct of this nature as a serious aggravating factor, given its potential to cause harm, discourage participation, and undermine a safe and respectful industry environment.
- That the conduct forms part of a broader pattern of similar behaviour within the industry and is not an isolated occurrence, warranting a firm penalty to address the elevated risk of recurrence and to uphold industry and community standards.

Joshua Goldenberg
Investigative Steward
Greyhound Racing Integrity & Welfare
Greyhound Racing Victoria