

Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit and
Butch Deverell

Date of Decision	20 August 2025
Decision Makers	Dominic Tyson (Chair), Neil Finnigan, Gavin Griffin.
Present by phone	Mr Butch Deverell (Public Trainer)
Rule	<i>Greyhound Australasia Rule 141(1)(a) The owner, trainer, or other person in charge of a greyhound nominated to compete in an Event must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.</i>
Charge	That Mr B Deverell, being the trainer of Hellyer Dougie, did present the greyhound to race at a meeting of the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on Monday 23rd June 2025 in race 2 when not free of a prohibited substance.
Prohibited Substance	Codeine and Norcodeine
Plea	Guilty
Inquiry Decision	Penalty Imposed
Penalty	3-month suspension wholly suspended for 24 months
Summary of Facts	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr Deverell is a licensed greyhound trainer based on the Northwest Coast of Tasmania.2. Hellyer Dougie competed in Race 2 at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, won and was subject to a post-race urine sample.3. The sample obtained from Hellyer Dougie was given the unique sample number R035994.

4. On 23 July 2025, Racing Analytical Services Ltd issued a Certificate of Analysis reporting that Codeine and Norcodeine had been detected in the “A” portion of the sample.
5. On 13 August 2025, the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory in New South Wales confirmed the presence of Codeine and Norcodeine.
6. No evidence of Codeine was revealed during an inspection of Mr Deverell’s kennels and there was no evidence of administration of the substance in treatment records or any other source. Mr Deverell had no explanation as to why the sample contained Codeine and Norcodeine.
7. At a subsequent inquiry into the findings at the Tas Racing Integrity Unit in Launceston on 20 August 2025, Mr Deverell pleaded guilty to a charge of presenting the Greyhound to race when not free of a prohibited substance under the provisions of GAR 141(1)(a).

Penalty Discussion

8. In a racing context it is very important that a penalty has the effect of deterring others from committing similar offences through the consideration of both general and specific deterrence.
9. That penalties imposed upon those offending the prohibited substance rules should reflect the industry’s disapproval of prohibited substances being detected in racing greyhounds and the negative public perception of the sport in general.

Penalty

10. In determining the penalty in this matter, the stewards are mindful of penalties imposed for similar breaches both in Tasmania and Interstate.
11. The Stewards believe this matter is best dealt with by way of a suspension of license (Wholly Suspended).
12. The panel is placing much emphasis on Mr Deverell’s clean record regarding judicial matters of this nature in over 50 years as a licensed trainer in mitigation of a more severe punishment.
13. In reaching the penalty determination, Stewards factored other relevant considerations.
14. When addressing the Panel on penalty Mr Deverell stated he is a pensioner and hobby trainer who trains greyhounds as a way of life. He does this for the enjoyment and positive mental health benefits of working with animals.

15. Stewards considered Mr Deverell's cooperation throughout the investigation and his guilty plea to the charge of presentation.

16. The nature of the substance, which was stated in a report dated 5 October 2023, by the Greyhound Racing Victoria ("GRV") Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic. He reported that codeine is not easily placed in a category in the GRV Penalty Guidelines and could fit in any category. However, in his opinion, it is best suited to the category "therapeutic substances"

**Disqualification Of
Greyhound**

17. Pursuant to GAR 141(4) Hellyer Dougie will be disqualified from Race 2, at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on Monday 23 June 2025.

Mr Deverell was advised of his right to appeal.

Decision Date: 20 August 2025.