

Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit

and

Darryl Fitzsimmons

Inquiry Decision Greyhound Anndar Shelly positive sample to Caffeine and its Metabolites.

Date of hearing: 27 August 2025

Stewards Panel: Dominic Tyson (Chair), Neil Finnigan, Gavin Griffin.

Present: *Mr Darryl Fitzsimmons (Public Trainer)*

Rule: *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.*

Charge: That Mr D Fitzsimmons, being the trainer of Anndar Shelly, did present the greyhound to race at a meeting of the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on Monday 19th May 2025 in Race 1 when not free of a prohibited substance.

Prohibited Substance: Caffeine Paraxanthine Theophylline and Theobromine

Plea: *Guilty*

Inquiry Decision: *Penalty imposed.*

Penalty: *3 month Suspension - 1 Month wholly suspended for 12 months.*

1. Summary of Facts Mr Fitzsimmons is a licensed greyhound trainer based in the North of Tasmania.

Anndar Shelly competed in Race 1 at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, won and was subject to a post-race urine sample.

The sample obtained was given the unique sample number R033332.

On 24 June 2025, Racing Analytical Services Ltd issued a Certificate of Analysis reporting that Caffeine and its Metabolites had been detected in the "A" portion of the sample.

On 21 July 2025, the Chem Centre in Western Australia confirmed the presence of Caffeine and its Metabolites

No evidence of Caffeine or its administration was revealed during an inspection of Mr Fitzsimmons's kennels. Mr Fitzsimmons had no explanation that could be confirmed as to why the sample had returned a positive result.

At a subsequent inquiry into the findings at the Tasracing Integrity Unit in Launceston on 27 August 2025, Mr Fitzsimmons 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).

2. Penalty Discussion 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.

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 In determining the penalty in this matter, the stewards are mindful of penalties imposed for similar breaches in Tasmania.

The Stewards believe this matter is best dealt with by way of a suspension of licence

The panel is placing much emphasis on Mr Fitzsimmons's clean record regarding judicial matters of this nature in Tasmania.

In reaching the penalty determination the Stewards factored other relevant considerations.

When addressing the Panel on penalty Mr Fitzsimmons stated he had recently retired from work and hoped to concentrate on his Greyhounds as a hobby trainer to earn income and derive enjoyment from the sport for both he and his wife.

Stewards note Mr Fitzsimmons's cooperation throughout the investigation and his guilty plea to the charge of presentation.

Disqualification Of Greyhound

Pursuant to GAR 141(4) Anndar Shelly will be disqualified from Race 1, at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on Monday 19 May 2025.

Mr Fitzsimmons was advised of his right to appeal.

Decision Date: 19 September 2025.