

STEWARDS DECISION

TASRACING INTEGRITY UNIT
and
MICHAEL PEARCE

Date of hearing:	3 June 2025
Stewards Panel:	Dominic Tyson (Chair), Roger Brown
Respondent:	Mr Michael Pearce (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:	Mr M Pearce, the trainer of Mahogany, did present the greyhound to race in race 8 at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on Thursday 17 April 2025 when not free of a prohibited substance, namely Arsenic above the permitted threshold
Plea:	Guilty
Penalty:	\$1000 fine, \$500 to be wholly suspended for 12 months

1. Summary of Facts

Mr Pearce is a licensed greyhound trainer based in Hobart, Tasmania.

Mahogany placed 1st in race 8 at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on Thursday 17 April 2025 and was subject to a post-race urine sample.

The sample obtained from Mahogany was given the unique sample number R031059.

On 15 May 2025, Racing Analytical Services Ltd issued a Certificate of Analysis reporting that Arsenic above the prescribed threshold of 800 ng/mL had been detected in the "A" portion of the sample.

On 29 May 2025, the Chem Centre Laboratory in Western Australia confirmed the presence of Arsenic above 800 ng/mL .

At a subsequent inquiry on 3 June 2025, Mr Pearce pleaded guilty to a charge of presenting Mahogany to race on 17 April 2025 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.

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

The Stewards believe this matter is best dealt with by way of monetary fine. This is to reflect the relative seriousness of the offence but also the manner in which the offence occurred.

We are mindful of Mr Pearce's unblemished record regarding judicial matters of this nature in over 20 years as a licenced trainer.

3. Factors in consideration of penalty.

In determining the appropriate penalty, Stewards considered the following relevant considerations:

- Mr Pearce's cooperation throughout the investigation and his guilty plea to the charge of presentation.
- Mr Pearce is a pensioner and hobby trainer who trains greyhounds for the enjoyment and positive mental health benefits of working with animals.
- The nature of the substance and contamination through materials in the kennel environment as established by the presence of chewed timbers in Mahogany's kennel.
- Mr Pearce's removal of any materials in his kennels that may pose a risk of contamination.

Disqualification Of Greyhound

Pursuant to GAR 141(4) Mahogany will be disqualified from Race 8, at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on Thursday 17 April 2025, with the placings to be amended accordingly.

Mr Pearce was advised of his right to appeal.

Decision Date: 3 June 2025.