

5th July 2020

NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT – Mr Brian Clarke

PANEL: Mr Timothy McGrath (Chair), Ms Tanya Johnston and Mr Graham Loch.

STEWARDS REPRESENTATION: Mr Derek Kordick, Inquiries Officer and Mr Des Jonas, Chief Steward.



Authorised for public dissemination.

On 22nd June 2020 Mr Clarke appeared (via telephone with permission of the IHP) before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to matters related to the purchase of greyhound Destini Peso in or around October 2018.

Following consideration of various sources of information, Stewards considered it appropriate to subsequently charge Mr Clarke with the following charge:

1. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(o) in that in the opinion of the Stewards, Mr Clarke improperly, fraudulently, negligently or dishonestly, falsified a transfer of Destini Peso from a Victorian owner to himself in order to disguise the transaction as having occurred during a period of his disqualification.

Mr Clarke was given an opportunity to consider the allegation and subsequently took advantage of the opportunity to enter a plea of guilty by way of his communicating his intention in writing to GRSA on 23rd April 2020.

The IHP heard submissions from Mr Clarke, and from Messrs Kordick and Jonas on behalf of the Stewards.

The IHP consider contravention of the terms of a disqualification to be particularly serious. Mr Clarke was a disqualified person as at the date of him acquiring Destini Peso, having been disqualified from 22nd June 2018 to 22nd December 2018. Disqualification of any participant is a significant penalty and one which carries with it obligations that participants must strictly adhere to. In acquiring Destini Peso during a period of disqualification, Mr Clarke has displayed a contumacious (wilful disobedience) attitude to the original penalty that was imposed upon him. Should such penalties not be strictly adhered to, their effectiveness will be severely undermined – as a consequence, the ability to ensure that the integrity of greyhound racing in South Australia is maintained is undermined. Were such behaviour not to be deemed appropriately serious, the sport of greyhound racing is potentially exposed to immeasurable harm.

The IHP, in taking into account the personal circumstances of Mr Clarke, the submissions from Stewards and Mr Clarke, the expression of remorse and insight as evidenced by his entering a plea of guilty to the allegation at the earliest opportunity, concluded that the following penalty should be imposed:

- Mr Clarke will be disqualified for a period of 6 months.
- On account of his early guilty plea, that period of disqualification will be reduced to a period of 4 months.
- It was not considered appropriate to suspend (fully or partially) the disqualification.
- The disqualification will commence from 22nd June 2020.

Both parties were advised of their right of appeal.



Timothy McGrath
GRSA INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL CHAIR

