

5th July 2020

NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT – Ms Barbara Cahill

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 Ms Cahill appeared before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to matters arising from the participation of greyhound Double Ya Back at Gawler Greyhound Racing Club on 12th November 2019.

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

1. Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 in that on 12th November 2019, Ms Cahill presented Double Ya Back at an event, namely, Race 10 at Gawler Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance. The prohibited substance identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Double Ya Back, was analysed and determined to be Atenolol (Atenolol is a beta blocker medication primarily used to treat high blood pressure, heart related chest pain, migraines and blood pressure issues in humans. It can be used in greyhounds to enhance performance by slowing heart rate and combatting anxiety – it is not alleged or suspected that Ms Cahill intentionally administered the prohibited substance to Double Ya Back.).

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

No irregular betting was identified in relation to the race to which the charge against Ms Cahill relates.

On 18th December 2019 GRSA officers spoke with Ms Cahill regarding this matter. She was candid, co-operative and polite at all times.

In relation to the charge, Ms Cahill provided an explanation as to how the prohibited substance came to be on her property and a hypothesis as to how it may have come into contact with Double Ya Back. Notably, the charge is one of presentation, not administration, and accordingly, although not actively supporting the hypothesis of how the substance came to be ingested by Double Ya Back advanced by Ms Cahill, the Stewards did not challenge, nor were they required to, either explanation. Essentially, Ms Cahill asserted that the presentation of the prohibited substance was the result of inadvertence on her part in dealing with personal medication– an explanation that is accepted by the IHP.

Ms Cahill presents to the IHP as a valued participant of approximately 27 years in greyhound racing (trainer since 1999). She has never been the subject of disciplinary proceedings of any kind, and has been polite and co-operative at all times. She acknowledged the allegation by entering a plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity.

The IHP is mindful of the underlying importance of presenting greyhounds free of prohibited substances. Presentation offences have been rightly condemned through past decisions of the Stewards, a stance that has been supported by the Racing Appeals Tribunal on many occasions.

Mindful of all submissions from the Stewards and Ms Cahill, the circumstances of the offence, Ms Cahill's positive circumstances, both personal and involvement in greyhound racing, the IHP have determined to finalise the matter as follows:

- Ms Cahill will be suspended for a period of 3 months.
- In light of Ms Cahill's early guilty plea the suspension will be reduced to 2 months and 14 days.
- Ms Cahill must serve a period of 28 days of the suspension, thereafter, the remaining 6 weeks will be suspended for a period of 12 months.
- The period of suspension will commence from 25th June 2020.
- A fine of \$300 reduced to \$200 in light of early guilty plea will be imposed.

It necessarily follows that the IHP endorse the recommendation of GRSA Stewards, acting under GAR 83(4), to direct that Double Ya Back be disqualified from Race 10 at the Gawler Greyhound Racing Club held on 3rd November 2019.

Stewards will formally direct that the placings be amended accordingly and that the \$510 prizemoney won in the event be returned to GRSA (note that Ms Cahill has already returned same) for redistribution where appropriate.

Both parties were advised of their right of appeal.



Timothy McGrath
GRSA INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL CHAIR

