

18th July 2021

NOTICE OF INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL RESULT – Ms Kellie Watson

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

STEWARDS REPRESENTATION: Mr Derek Kordick, Risk & Compliance Manager and Mr Des Jonas, Chief Steward.



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On 19th May 2021 Ms Watson appeared before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to matters arising from:

1. The participation of greyhound Danyo's Charlie at Murray Bridge Greyhound Racing Club on 1st January 2021, and;
2. A post-race sample of urine was taken from Danyo's Charlie and was subsequently determined to contain Theobromine, a prohibited substance.

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

- Breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83 (2)(a) in that on 1st January 2021, Ms Watson presented Danyo's Charlie at an event, namely, Race 11 at Murray Bridge Greyhound Racing Club not free of any prohibited substance(s). The prohibited substance identified following a post-racing sample being taken from Danyo's Charlie was analysed and determined to be Theobromine (theobromine is most commonly found in chocolate-based products).

Ms Watson elected to enter an early guilty plea to the charge.

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

No irregular betting was identified in relation to the race Danyo's Charlie raced in that relate to the charge.

Of significance, it is important to note that, without in any way seeking to diminish the seriousness of the allegation, Stewards accept that the presence of the prohibited substance noted in the charge, was not intentionally administered by Ms Watson. Stewards accept that the likely source of the identified substance was through accidental transference to Danyo's Charlie through the likely careless disposal (by person(s) unknown) of confectionary wrapping/product.

As noted in previous matters, the IHP is ever 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. Such offences invariably result in suspensions or disqualifications. Matters will invariably differ in their surrounding circumstances.

The IHP have formed the view that this matter should be differentiated from those offences that have resulted in immediate suspensions and disqualifications. The IHP have formed this view, for the following reasons, all of which were undisputed by Stewards:

- Ms Watson is a highly respected participant with a significant history in greyhound racing.
- She has undertaken to ensure the immediate physical environment her dogs are exposed to does not expose her to a repeat of this matter.
- Through her admission to the charge at the earliest opportunity.
- Ms Watson was fully co-operative and polite with Stewards throughout their investigation.

As has been noted previously by the IHP, although a lenient approach should be sparingly considered when addressing matters involving prohibited substances, the IHP have formed a view, in all of the circumstances, that this is indeed a case that is deserving of such an approach.

In all the circumstances, the IHP have resolved to finalise this matter as follows:

- Ms Watson will be suspended for a period of 3 months.
- Considering her early guilty plea, that suspension will be reduced to a period of 2 months and 14 days.
- Given the circumstances of the offence, and all matters personal to Ms Watson, that 2 months and 14 days will be fully suspended for a period of 12 months.
- A fine of \$600 reduced to \$400 considering her 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:

1. Danyo's Charlie be disqualified from Race 11 at the Murray Bridge Greyhound Racing Club held on 1st January 2021, and;

Stewards will direct that the placings in the event be amended accordingly and that the \$1,190.00 prizemoney be returned to GRSA for redistribution where appropriate.



Both parties were advised of their right of appeal.

T. M.

Timothy McGrath

GRSA INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL CHAIR

