



19th October 2023

Stewards' Notice

Stewards' Inquiry Determination

Greyhound Transponder nominated for Adelaide Cup 2023 – Confirmation of trainer pre-nomination

On 18th October 2023, Stewards opened an Inquiry relating to the nomination of the greyhound Transponder for the 2023 Adelaide Cup Series in South Australia.

On 6th October 2023, the registered greyhound “*Transponder*” (ID 558908, Ear (L) VKNFF, microchip 956 0000 144 101 45) won the 2023 Adelaide Cup, after being nominated, and competing in, the series. The prize money was held, pending a routine, clear swab result. Trainer Mr J Thompson nominated the greyhound. The owner was Ms A Tullio. Both are registered persons in Victoria.

ISSUE FOR INQUIRY

After the Cup win, a person named Mr V Tullio spoke to journalist Mr D Brasch (News Corp) about the greyhound, and this is reproduced in this article:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02Ukt5gcQWJQBCpx1TZ8MmAQFWANjER7YTfeu1GQpeQSVCKoWfnCNbhyyAmuPmfx55l&id=100057256399363&mibextid=ncKXMA

Of concern to the Inquiry, Mr Tullio is quoted saying:

“I did a bit of work with him before he went to Jason, who loves to make sure they are the right quality he wants”.

Further:

“Jason and I set this plan in motion five weeks ago to take Transponder to Angle Park rather than the Million Dollar Chase”.

It was further alleged that “*Vince took Transponder to Angle Park while Jason and son Luke were in Germany of a golfing trip*”; however, this issue was resolved with confirmation the greyhound travelled with a registered person.

Mr Tullio was a previously registered person in Victoria. According to GRV records, Mr Tullio was disqualified on 7th December 2021, effective to 6th August 2022 and since then was unregistered. Before that, Mr Tullio was suspended from 9th June 2021 to 13th April 2022. The greyhound was transferred to Mr Thompson on 25th January 2023. The greyhound was whelped on 3rd March 2021 and named on 21st June 2022. From these dates, the following questions concerned the Inquiry:

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- (1) Did Mr Tullio say he “*did a bit of work with him before he went to Jason*”; and, if so, at what stage of the greyhound’s life did Mr Tullio do that work, considering the greyhound was named while Mr Tullio was disqualified and then unregistered (the only lawful time then being from 3rd March 2021 to 8th June 2021 – the first three months of its life); and,
- (2) Did Mr Tullio say that he set the plan in motion five weeks ago; and, if so, was that in the context of greyhound training?

RULE

The relevant rule for South Australia is Local Rule 69 –

69 Nominations – generally

(1) It shall be a condition of the acceptance by the Authority of a nomination in respect of a greyhound for any Event that:

...

(b) at the time of submitting the nomination:

(i) all persons associated with the greyhound and required pursuant to these Rules to be registered are the holders or current registration certificates;

(c) The person submitting the nomination agrees to be bound by the rules, regulations, by-laws or other constituent documents of the Club and conditions applicable to the Event;

(d) should the greyhound be selected to start in any Event, then if afterwards in any circumstances whatsoever:

(i) the conditions of entry to the Event are changed;

...

(iii) the greyhound is not permitted to compete in the Event for any reason including (without limitation) disqualification, suspension, or being subject to any order pursuant to these Rules;

(iv) the greyhound is unable to compete in the Event for any reason including injury or illness of any kind and however caused;

no liability shall lie against the Club, the Authority, or their respective servants and agents for any direct or indirect or consequential loss or damage howsoever sustained; and,

(e) there shall be no entitlement to any prize money until its payment has been authorised by the Stewards in accordance with GAR [121].

THE INQUIRY

On 19th October 2023, Stewards interviewed Mr Thompson and Mr Tullio. Mr Thompson asserted that Mr Tullio did not train the greyhound at any time whilst the greyhound was under Mr Thompson’s care, and Mr Thompson did not see anything by way of Mr Tullio’s conduct, at any time, that would amount to greyhound training. Mr Thompson also confirmed that Ms Tullio was not involved in training the greyhound while the greyhound was under Mr Thompson’s care. Mr Tullio asserted that the greyhound was not trained by him at any time Mr Tullio was unauthorised to do so. To that end, Mr Tullio asserted, the remarks in the article did not reflect the true state of affairs and were incorrect.

DETERMINATION

The article causing this Inquiry purports to quote Mr Tullio. The article, however, is hearsay and as such, Stewards treat the provenance of the remarks with that in mind. The assertions of Mr Tullio and Mr Thompson are at odds with the remarks in the article. This leaves open one possibility that the remarks in the article are either substantively incorrect or taken out of context.

Considering procedural fairness is desired in Inquiries, if not required, the evidence, therefore, leaves open the reasonable possibility consistent with 'innocence' that the remarks in the article did not reflect the true position of the training of Transponder. Therefore, in those circumstances this must be taken into account when assessing the evidence and outcomes for the purposes of rule 169(3), *Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR)*.

Rule 169(3), GAR, in the circumstances of this Inquiry and this stage, allows the following outcomes –

...

- (b) determine that no charge should be laid;
- (c) lay a charge;
- (f) reprimand persons involved in the inquiry or other disciplinary process.

Stewards determined that, pursuant to rule 169(3)(b), GAR, that **no charge should be laid**.

Stewards ordered that the direction made on 18th October 2023 that GRSA withhold payment of prize money related to the Event, being the Adelaide Cup 2023, pending the outcome of the Inquiry, be **revoked**.

This Inquiry is closed.

For further advice, contact the Chief Steward via 08 8243 7100 or admin@grsa.com.au.