

NORTHERN TERRITORY RACING COMMISSION

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11 August 2020

RESULT OF INQUIRY – Mr. S Bolton

Racing Commission members: A. Shields, A. Corcoran, A McGill

The Northern Territory Racing Commission (Commission), through powers bestowed pursuant to section 56 (1) of the *Racing and Betting Act* (the Act), is responsible for the control and general supervision of the Northern Territory greyhound industry.

Following a race meet held at the Darwin Greyhound Association, Winnellie Park, on 13 May 2020, NT greyhound stewards enquired into the betting history of greyhound trainer Mr Steele Bolton.

The favourite in the Coolalinga Mowers Dash, which was trained by Mr Bolton, lost the race, with the winner being another greyhound trained by Mr Bolton. Stewards noted that a potential breach of the Greyhound Australasia Rules had occurred, as Mr Bolton had bet against his runner by virtue of his wager for the field to beat the favourite.

Due to the nature of the allegation, and the fact that no other greyhound jurisdiction had laid a charge of this nature before, the matter was referred to the Commission as the Controlling Body, who determined to hold an inquiry into the matter.

The inquiry was held on Tuesday, 11 August 2020, with Mr Bolton present.

After taking evidence from NT Greyhound Stewards, the Commission charged Mr Bolton with a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule R87.

R87 Betting to lose

(1) *For the purposes of this Rule "lay" means the offering or placing of a bet on a greyhound:*

(a) *to lose an Event; or*

(b) *to be beaten by any other runner or runners in an Event other than a bet of a type which will generate a dividend if the greyhound places first in the Event and the other elements of that bet type required to be successful are satisfied; or*

(c) *to be beaten by any margin or range of margins in an Event; or*



(d) that a greyhound will not be placed in any one of the first four finishing positions in an Event in accordance with the provisions of Rule 61.

(2) Any person directly involved, or employed in the nomination, training or care of a greyhound or a person who has provided a service connected to a greyhound, within the preceding 21 days of the greyhound starting in an Event, shall not lay the greyhound in the Event.

(3) In circumstances where it is an offence for a person to lay a greyhound pursuant to this Rule it shall also be an offence for that person to-

(a) have a greyhound laid on his behalf; or

(b) receive any money or other valuable consideration in any way connected with the laying of a greyhound by another person.

(4) It shall be an offence for any person to offer an inducement to a participant in greyhound racing with the intention of profiting from a greyhound not participating in an Event to the best of its ability.

Mr Bolton pleaded guilty to the breach and was fined 25 Penalty Units (\$3,925).

In assessing the penalty, the Commission took into consideration:

- Mr Bolton's personal circumstances;
- his time in the industry;
- his admission of guilt;
- his remorse for his actions
- that the integrity of the race was not in question; and
- the need for the penalty to serve as a deterrent to other industry participants.

Mr Bolton was read his rights of appeal.



Alastair Shields
Chairperson

13 August 2020