

Stewards Investigation Report

12 March 2019

Date of Finalisation: 12 March 2019
Venue of Hearing: GRV Head Office
Name: -
Date: 6 February 2019
Track: Ballarat
GAR: GAR 56

Issue: ***GAR 56 - No Race, false start and non-starter (1) Should there be an occurrence of any human intervention, mechanical or other defect, which has the effect of preventing an Event from being completed or there are other circumstances arising which warrant such action being taken, the Stewards may declare the Event to be a "False Start" or a "No Race".***

Officiating Stewards: Mr. Paul Searle

REPORT

At the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club on Wednesday 6 February 2019, Race 2 was declared a "No-Race" after Bush Mate (4) wore the incorrect rug (3) and also exited from Box (3) when it was drawn to jump from Box (4). The Stewards advice on the matter was as follows:

During the running of this race, it became evident that a greyhound was carrying the 3 rug when there was no such number scheduled to compete in the race. After some identification checks were carried out, it was established that Bush Mate, which was drawn in box 4, had worn the incorrect race rug in the event. However so, after taking evidence from the Starter Mr. R. Phillips, Trainer Mr. D. Fleming, Steward Mr. J. Rea and the Parade Official before the All Clear was given, it further materialised that Bush Mate had in fact also started from the incorrect box (3) instead of (4). Therefore, as the race did not occur as advertised, that betting was offered and occurred on a set of facts and circumstances that did not eventuate and that the race was not conducted in accordance with the box draw (GAR 22), the Stewards declared the event a No Race pursuant to GAR 56 (1). All bets were to be refunded. Stewards ordered all weights to be removed from the weight cards of the greyhounds. Stewards opened an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Bush Mate starting from the incorrect box and wearing the incorrect race rug. After taking evidence from several persons, the matter was adjourned to a date to be fixed. The matter was also referred to the Chief Steward who will be conducting an internal investigation into this matter.

Interviews were conducted with several persons (both officials and registered participants) about how Bush Mate could race with the incorrect rug on and from the incorrect starting box. There were five (5) critical failures identified that allowed the issue to pass through undetected, until it was irreparable. These five failures were all attributed to human error and the following sequence is the order of occurrence and the action taken. It is not in any-way related to the level of fault:

NB: Steward Investigation/Hearing decisions are subject to Appeal under the Rules of Greyhound Racing.

Trainer Damian Fleming – Mr Fleming placed the incorrect rug (3) on Bush Mate instead of (4). Mr Fleming was charged under GAR 86 (o) for negligence in that he placed the incorrect race rug (3) on Bush Mate instead of the correct race rug (4). Mr Fleming pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$200.

Steward Bernard Blood: Mr Blood failed to recognise the incorrect race-rug (3) was on Bush Mate when scanning greyhounds out for Race 2. Mr Blood is subject to internal disciplinary procedures in accordance with his Employment Agreement.

Parade Steward Michael Hunter: Mr Hunter failed to recognise the incorrect race-rug was on Bush Mate when taking the greyhounds from the kennel area to the starting boxes. Stewards have recommended to the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club that Mr Hunter be given formal induction training and undertake a training session on the Standard Operating Procedures for the role.

Starter Robert Phillips: Mr Phillips (Starter) failed to act rectify the situation upon identifying that Bush Mate was wearing the incorrect race-rug (3). Stewards have recommended to the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club that Mr Phillips undertake a refresher course on the Standard Operating Procedures for the Starter's role and is cognisant with the importance of both recognising any errors but also acting accordingly thereafter.

Steward John Rea: Mr Rea (the Starting Box Steward) failed to recognise that the incorrect race-rug (3) was on Bush Mate and that the incorrect box (3) was being used instead of the correct one (4). Mr Rea is subject to internal disciplinary procedures in accordance with his Employment Agreements.



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Paul Searle
CHIEF STEWARD
GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA