

DECISION

Of

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards

Regarding

Bavarian Lady – Mark Currie

Delivered on:	3 September 2026
Panel:	Mr B Wright (Chair), Mr D Aurisch, Mr A Streckbein and Ms D McMahon
Charge:	AR240(2)
Particulars of Charge:	Bavarian Lady being brought to Picklebet Park Warwick for the purpose of participating in a race and prohibited substances on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race.
Plea:	Guilty

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards have concluded an inquiry into analyst reports from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Limited that the prohibited substances Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone were detected in a post-race urine sample taken from BAVARIAN LADY after it competed in Race 4 at Picklebet Park Warwick on 26 December 2025. Evidence was taken from trainer Mark Currie and after consideration, Stewards preferred the following charge:

Charge

AR240(2) states the following:

Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and

any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules

The specifics of the charge being:

- 1: You, Mr Mark Currie, are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC).
- 2: You were at the relevant time the licensed trainer of BAVARIAN LADY.
- 3: On 26 December 2025 BAVARIAN LADY was brought to Picklebet Park Warwick for the purpose of competing in a race, that being Race 4 the Benchmark 60 Handicap over 1500 metres.
- 4: Prohibited substances were detected in analysis of the post-race urine sample collected from BAVARIAN LADY, those substances being Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone.
5. Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone are prohibited substances pursuant to Division 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Australian Rules of Racing (Prohibited List B).

Plea: Guilty

Penalty Submissions:

Stewards accepted Mr Currie's guilty plea, formally found him guilty of this charge and considered submissions from him in relation to penalty, which are summarised below:

1. His guilty plea.
2. His disciplinary record.
3. The delay in hearing of the matter.
4. BAVARIAN LADY had been treated with Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone, however; Mr Currie's treatment records demonstrated that BAVARIAN LADY had received no such treatment and in fact, was receiving nil treatment.
5. Impact on reputation.

Stewards Finding on Penalty:

Stewards considered Mr Currie's submissions, personal circumstances and the impact that a penalty may have upon himself.

The penalty issued by Stewards must act as both a general deterrent to the wider industry and as a specific deterrent to Mr Currie. Mr Currie's guilty plea and conduct during the inquiries was considered, along with his personal circumstances and disciplinary history, which included eight (8) offences of a similar nature to AR240(2) over a period of training.

Relevant precedents were also considered, particularly matters that were similar in nature, being:

Racing NSW Decision Peter & Paul Snowden 29/9/18. Phenylbutazone, Oxyphenbutazone and Gamma-hydroxy phenylbutazone Fine \$7000.

Racing NSW Decision Mark Newnham 14/09/21. Phenylbutazone & Oxyphenbutazone Fine \$5000.

VRT Decision John Leek(Jnr) 9/9/22. Phenylbutazone & Oxyphenbutazone Fine \$4000.

VRT Decision Peter Moody 13/5/23. Phenylbutazone & Oxyphenbutazone Fine \$5000.

Racing SA Decision Jess Gleeson 30/9/23. Phenylbutazone Fine \$4000.

VRT Decision Richard Jolly 9/11/23. Phenylbutazone, Oxyphenbutazone and Gamma-hydroxy phenylbutazone Fine \$4000.

Racing SA Decision Darryl Carrison 22/1/25. Phenylbutazone Fine \$12000.

Racing SA Decision Trish Stanbury 6/10/25. Phenylbutazone & metabolites Fine \$4000.

Racing SA Decision Ron Daniel 6/10/25. Phenylbutazone & metabolites Fine \$4000.

QRIC Decision Darryl Knight 3/3/26. Phenylbutazone & Oxyphenbutazone Fine \$4000.

Stewards also noted and considered the decision of 22 May 2025, where QRIC Stewards issued a penalty against Mr Currie for two (2) offences under AR240(2) for presenting a horse to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race.

A penalty of \$15000 was issued for the two offences, as well as a 6-month suspension of his licence in full, wholly suspended under the provisions of AR283(5) for a period of 24 months for each offence, with the suspended suspensions to be treated wholly concurrent.

The suspended suspensions were to be enlivened *“if, at any time, a breach of AR240(2) or any other similar rule occurs within the operative period of the suspended suspensions, being 22 May 2025 to 22 May 2027”*.

Human Rights

In considering this matter, proper consideration is required in respect of human rights, and it is necessary to act compatibly with human rights in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld). The Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr. Mark Currie may limit or prevent a person from earning a living from the racing industry and subsequently that the imposition of such a penalty may limit a person's human rights to own property (namely a licence), as well as the human right of privacy and reputation. The Stewards further acknowledge that a limitation upon a person's ability to participate in the racing industry, and earn income from that participation, may only be imposed where it is reasonably necessary to achieve the purpose of taking disciplinary action and there is no less restrictive and reasonably available way to achieve the purposes listed above, than to suspend a licence, disqualify a person from holding a licence, or warn a person off.

In the circumstances of this case, Stewards are satisfied that there is no lesser penalty that could be imposed that enables the purposes of taking disciplinary action against a licensee for a contravention of the rules of racing, which are to:

- Maintain public confidence in the racing of animals in Queensland for which betting is lawful;
 - Ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing or betting under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* or the *Racing Act 2002*; and
 - Safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* or the *Racing Act 2002*.
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Penalty: Stewards determined that a 9-month suspension of Mr Currie's licence to train be an appropriate starting point for this offence. With consideration given to Mr Currie's submission relative to the delay in hearing the matter and his co-operation throughout the Inquiry, the suspension period was reduced to 6-months. Further, the 6-month suspension imposed on Mr Currie on 22 May 2025 and suspended for a 24-month period should he not reoffend under AR240(2) or any similar rule, was enlivened. When considering the principle of totality, Stewards ordered that both suspension periods be served concurrently. **6-month suspension of his licence in full commencing midnight 3 September 2026 and expiring midnight 3 March 2027.**

Horse Disqualification

AR240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting: (1) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.

Acting under the provisions of AR240, Stewards ordered BAVARIAN LADY be disqualified from 1st place in Race 4, the Benchmark 60 Handicap 1500m conducted at Picklebet Park Warwick December 26, 2025.

Against this Stewards' decision Mark Currie was advised of his rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeal Panel within three (3) business days pursuant to section 252AB(2) of the Racing Integrity Act 2016.