



Media release

28 May 2018

Toowoomba Trainer Ben Currie on 31 charges

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) has today charged Trainer Ben Currie with 31 charges under the Australian Rules of Racing.

Due to the serious nature of the charges Stewards have ordered that any nomination or acceptance under Mr Currie's name will be rejected until the Inquiry concludes. Subsequently he will be allowed to exercise the horses listed in his stable only. The Inquiry has been adjourned to a date to be fixed.

The thoroughbred Trainer appeared for the third time at a reconvened Inquiry where he faced 31 breaches of the rules of racing relating to race day treatment and therapy, providing false evidence, and obstruction of the Stewards investigation.

For five breaches of AR 178E (race day treatment without permission) Mr Currie as the trainer is charged with allegedly causing the administration of a medication to Gully Command, Publishing Power, Hang, With a Promise and Givus a Cuddle on 24 March 2018, the same day they raced at Doomben and Gatton. For these alleged actions Mr Currie was also charged under AR.175.(a) with one charge of improper practice.

Mr Currie faces a further seven charges under AR.178E as the trainer he allegedly caused the administration of a medication to Givus a Cuddle, Gully Command, Hang, Publishing Power, Ruettiger, With a Promise and Boomwaa on 7 April 2018, the same day they were engaged to race at Toowoomba; For these actions under AR.175(a) Mr Currie is also charged with improper practice.

A further race day administration charge under AR.178E relates to causing horses in his care to be administered medication on 11 February 2017, the same day they raced at Toowoomba, and for this incident Mr Currie was also charged with improper practice.

Mr Currie is also charged under AR.178AA as the trainer of Jomar Saga he allegedly caused the administration of an alkalinising agent within the prevented period before the horse competed at Dalby on 3 September 2016.

The Toowoomba trainer is also charged with the following four breaches under AR.64H relating to the use of shockwave therapy within seven clear days of competition; As the trainer of Isn't She Elegant Mr Currie is charged with allegedly causing the administration of shockwave therapy within seven clear days of the horse competing at the Gold Coast on 15 April 2017.

Also as the trainer of Stellar Knight and Isis Magic he is charged with causing the administration of shockwave therapy within seven clear days of the horses competing at Dalby on 15 April 2017, Occhilupo the same day it raced at Toowoomba on 15 April 2017, and Invitto, the same day it raced at Dalby on 29 April 2017.

Mr Currie faces a further two charges under AR.178AB as the trainer of Captain's Pick he allegedly caused the horse to be injected within the prohibited period prior to it racing at Kilcoy on 22 April 2017, and the same breach in relation to Cantbuybetter before it raced at Doomben on 22 April 2017.

Under AR.175 Mr Currie is charged with providing false evidence and obstructing Stewards in their duties; specifically that on 12 April 2018 he gave false evidence when requested to produce his mobile phone.

Mr Currie is charged with giving false evidence to QRIC Stewards on 18 April 2018, he allegedly told Stewards that he did not have an iPad used in connection with racing.

On 12 April 2018 Stewards allege Mr Currie provided them with a mobile phone that had been factory reset thereby frustrating their attempts to search his mobile phone records for evidence directly relating to this Inquiry.

Mr Currie is also charged that on 9 May 2018 he allegedly advised his registered stable hand Silde Canda to delete messages on his mobile phone in an attempt to obstruct the Stewards in the exercise of their duties.

Under AR.175(a) in the opinion of the Stewards Mr Currie engaged in a dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper action in connection with racing by admitting to cheating in a text message to a staff member on 23 May 2016.

Under AR.68A Mr Currie was charged as the trainer of Gully Command and Givus a Cuddle he nominated and accepted with Gully Command at Gatton on 24 March 2018 for the sole purpose of affecting the weight allocated to other horses nominated or accepted for that race.

Mr Currie has pleaded not guilty to all 31 breaches of the rules of racing and sought an adjournment to allow him to prepare his defence.

QRIC Commissioner Ross Barnett said the Stewards direction to Mr Currie today was part of the ongoing investigation into race day treatment at the Currie Racing Hursley Rd Toowoomba stables.

"Everyone is equal before the law, no matter their profile and each case is prosecuted on its merits," he said.

"QRIC works to ensure that the rules of racing are adhered to in all instances and all breaches of those rules are taken very seriously.

"While the outcome of this investigation is still some time off being complete, I want to reiterate that racing participants have a responsibility to adhere to the rules of racing at all times and to cooperate with investigating Stewards."

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