

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Michael Jokic – Legal Loophole

**Date: 3 July 2019**

**Panel: P.Gillard, P. Lane, C. Warren, T. Hudson**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance, Caffeine, was detected in a blood sample taken from Legal Loophole at the Home Hill Racecourse on 3 November 2018.

Trainer, Michael Jokic pleaded guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 178, which states:

*Subject to AR 177C, when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.*

The specifics being:

*Michael Jokic, as the trainer of the thoroughbred, Legal Loophole, brought that horse to the Home Hill Race Club on 3 November 2018 for the purposes of engaging in Race 4, Maiden Plate 1460M, when a post-race blood sample taken from it, upon analysis, revealed the presence of a prohibited substance, namely Caffeine.*

When assessing an appropriate penalty, Stewards took into account Mr Jokic's personal circumstances, demeanour throughout the inquiry and his good disciplinary history as well as relevant penalty precedents. Stewards were also mindful of the detrimental effect such breaches have on the integrity of the industry and the requirement for any penalty to serve as an adequate deterrent to ensure racing is conducted free of prohibited substances.

Mr Jokic was fined \$3000.00.

Under the provisions of AR 177, Legal Loophole was disqualified as the winner of Race 4 Maiden Plate – 1460M at the Home Race Club 3 November 2018, and the placings amended as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Drumeous
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Naughty Corner
3 <sup>rd</sup>	First Train
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wakool

Stewards advised Mr Jokic of his right to an internal review.