

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Mr. Ben Ahrens

**Date: 4 June 2020**

**Panel: P Zimmermann, N Boyle and P Gillard**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance ACECLOFENAC was detected in a urine sample taken from LAKE HILLIER at the Toowoomba Turf Club on 7 September 2019.

Documentary evidence was tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) along with evidence from licensed trainer Mr Ben Ahrens.

After considering all the evidence, Mr Ahrens was issued a charge pursuant to AR 240 (2) which reads:

*(2) 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 that Mr Ben Ahrens as the licensed trainer of LAKE HILLIER brought that horse to the Toowoomba Turf Club on 7 September 2019 for the purpose of engaging in the Maiden Handicap 1300m, and a post-race urine sample taken was found to contain the prohibited substance ACECLOFENAC.

Mr Ahrens pleaded not guilty to the charge and made submissions in defence of the charge.

After considering all the evidence the Stewards were comfortably satisfied that sufficient evidence existed to substantiate the charge and Mr Ahrens was formally found guilty of the charge.

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards considered Mr Ahrens record and his personal circumstances. However, were also mindful of similar penalty precedents, the negative impact such breaches have on the image of racing and the need for a penalty to serve as an appropriate deterrent to ensure racing is conducted free of prohibited substances.

Mr Ahrens was subsequently fined \$3000

Furthermore, under the provisions of AR. 240 (1) LAKE HILLIER was disqualified from winning the above-mentioned race and the placing's were amended as follows –

**Toowoomba 7 September 2019 – Maiden Handicap 1300m**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – CLEAR SAILING
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – TAVI MCBRIDE
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – COCOJAMBO
- 4<sup>th</sup> – PADDLEPOP
- 5<sup>th</sup> – REG 'N' KATH

Mr Ahrens was made aware of his right to an internal review against this decision.

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