

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Ric McMahon

Date: 10/06/2020

Panel: P Chadwick, D Aurisch, N Boyle

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today concluded an inquiry regarding urine samples purported to have been taken from Jockey Ric McMahon at Mount Isa on 8 August 2019 and Townsville 3 September 2019.

Jockey Ric McMahon was found guilty to a charge under AR 139 (b) which reads:

A rider breaches these Australian Rules if the rider refuses or fails to deliver a sample as directed by the Stewards, tampers with, adulterates, substitutes, or in any way hinders the collection of a sample or attempts to do any of those things.

The particulars of the charge were that Ric McMahon as a licensed Jockey with the QRIC, did substitute a sample of urine which he purported to the Stewards to be taken from him at either Mount Isa on 8 August 2019 or Townsville on 3 September 2019.

When considering penalty the Panel considered the importance of taking urine samples from riders should never be understated as it serves as a safeguard for the riding cohort to ensure they are not competing against a fellow rider that may have their faculties impaired by a banned substance.

When the Stewards take these samples, they rely upon the licensed person adhering to a direction and providing this sample within a reasonable timeframe. It strikes at the very heart of the process when a sample of urine purported to be from an individual is found by DNA testing not to be the case.

The difference in the DNA profile of the urine samples taken from Ric McMahon at Mount Isa on 8 August 2019 and Townsville 3 September 2019, in the opinion of the Panel, were a clear and premeditated attempt to deceive the Stewards and the penalty imposed for such breach must be severe to serve as a specific deterrent to him and a general deterrent to the wider industry to illustrate that this deception will not be tolerated.

The Stewards also considered Ric McMahon's penalty submissions sent via email on 29 April 2020. These submissions outline some personal circumstances and the financial impact a significant penalty would have. Also, that there is a shortfall of riders in the Mount Isa area both in trackwork and on race day.

These considerations need to be balanced by the seriousness of the breach and the negative effect breaches of this kind have on the image of the industry.

In the opinion of the Panel the appropriate penalty would be a disqualification for fifteen (15) months, however the Panel considered that he had stood down from all duties associated with his licence since 25 September 2019. As such the Panel imposed a disqualification from 10 June 2020 and for the disqualification to expire at midnight 25 December 2020.

Furthermore, under the auspices of AR. 139 (4) he must provide a urine sample free of any banned substances prior to being permitted to ride again.

Jockey Ric McMahon was also advised of right to lodge an internal review regarding this decision.