

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Sharlee D'Avila – Narda Shar

Date: 15 June 2020

Panel: D Aurisch, P Chadwick & N Boyle

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance DEXAMETHASONE was detected in a urine sample taken from NARDA SHAR at the Innisfail Turf Club on 19 October 2019.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, this inquiry was conducted by written correspondence and Trainer Sharlee D'Avila was provided with documentary evidence from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL).

After considering the evidence, Miss D'Avila pleaded guilty to a charge pursuant to AR 240 (2) which reads:

Subject to subrule (3), if a horse has been 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 any 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 such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.

The specifics of the charge being that Sharlee D'Avila, as the trainer of NARDA SHAR, brought that horse to the Innisfail Turf Club on 19 October 2019, for the purpose of participating in a race and a post-race urine sample taken after the gelding competed in the Benchmark 60 Handicap 1500m, revealed the prohibited substance Dexamethasone.

When considering an appropriate penalty for this breach, the Panel were of the view the following points to be relevant:

1. Mrs D'Avila's unblemished record as a trainer since July 2013;
2. The forthright evidence she provided and guilty plea;
3. The veterinarian advice she received about the safe withhold period for the substance;
4. Her personal and financial circumstances;
5. Penalty precedents for Dexamethasone;
6. Need for both a specific deterrent to you and a general deterrent to the wider industry that these matters have a negative impact on the image of the sport.

Taking the above into account, the Stewards issued a fine of \$2000.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of AR 240(2) NARDA SHAR was disqualified from winning the Benchmark 60 Handicap 1500m and the placing's were amended as follows:

Innisfail – 19 October 2019 - Benchmark 60 Handicap 1500m

1st – LORD ARCHER

2nd – VOLTAIC

3rd – POWER OF DIVAS

4th – SOLIMINATE

5TH – OAKFIELD AVENGER

Miss D'Avila was made aware of her right to an internal review into the finding of the Stewards.
