

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Gregory Strickland

Date: 17 June 2020

Panel: P Lane & C Warren

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the activities of licensed trainer, Gregory Strickland, on the morning of Saturday 20 October 2018, at the on-course stabling complex of the Innisfail Turf Club.

On the day, some evidence was taken from Mr Strickland and other parties and the decision was made to withdraw CASHED UP BULLY, REDWINSKA and OAKFIELD AVENGER from their respective races at Innisfail on the above-mentioned date under the provisions of AR 8 (m). Swab samples were taken from these horses.

Further evidence was taken today from Mr Strickland.

After considering the evidence, Mr Strickland pleaded guilty to seven (7) charges under the Australian Rules of Racing.

Charges 1 to 3 were in relation to AR178E (1), which reads as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of AR178C(2) no person without the permission of the Stewards may administer or cause to be administered any medication to a horse at any time on race day prior to the commencement of a race in which the horse is engaged to race.

The specifics of each charge were particularised as follows:

1. Mr Gregory Strickland, as the trainer of CASHED UP BULLY, did, without the permission of the Stewards, cause that horse to be administered medications on the morning of Saturday October 20, 2018 when it was engaged to race at Innisfail that same day.
2. Mr Gregory Strickland, as the trainer of REDWISKA did, without the permission of the Stewards, administer a medication to that horse on the morning of Saturday October 20, 2018 when it was engaged to race at Innisfail that same day.
3. Mr Gregory Strickland, as the trainer of OAKFIELD AVENGER did, without the permission of the Stewards, administer a medication to that horse on the morning of Saturday October 20, 2018 when it was engaged to race at Innisfail that same day.

Charge 4 was in relation to AR178AB(1)(a) which reads as follows:

A person must not, without the permission of the Stewards, inject a horse, cause a horse to be injected or attempt to inject a horse, which is engaged to run in any race at any time at any time the day of the scheduled race, prior to the start of such event

The specifics of the charge were particularised as follows:

4. Mr Gregory Strickland, as the trainer of OAKFIELD AVENGER did, without the permission of the Stewards, inject that horse on the morning of Saturday October 20, 2018 when it was engaged to race at Innisfail that same day.

Charges 5 to 7 were in relation to AR175(a), which reads as follows:

The Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) may penalise any person who in their opinion, has been guilty of any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper, or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing.

The specifics of the charges were particularised as follows:

5. Mr Gregory Strickland, as the trainer of CASHED UP BULLY, did, without the permission of the Stewards, cause that horse to be administered medications on the morning of Saturday October 20, 2018 when it was engaged to race at Innisfail that same day which, in the opinion of the Stewards, was an improper practice
6. Mr Gregory Strickland, as the trainer of REDWISKA and OAKFIELD AVEGER, did, without the permission of the Stewards, administer medications to those two (2) horses on the morning of Saturday October 20, 2018 when they were engaged to race at Innisfail that same day which in the opinion of the Stewards, was an improper practice.
7. Mr Gregory Strickland, as the trainer of OAKFIELD AVENGER did, without the permission of the Stewards, inject that horse on the morning of Saturday October 20, 2018 when it was engaged to race at Innisfail that same day which, in the opinion of the Stewards, was an improper practice.

Stewards accepted his guilty plea and considered an appropriate penalty. Included in these considerations was Mr Strickland's forthright evidence, personal circumstances, and his previously unblemished record over a long period in relation to matters of this nature. However, these considerations need to be balanced by the seriousness of the breaches and the negative effect breaches of this kind have on the image of the industry.

In the opinion of the Stewards the appropriate penalty would be a disqualification of two (2) years, however the Panel considered that Mr Strickland's licence had been under full suspension since October 26, 2018 and he had performed no duties in relation to that licence during that period. As such the Panel imposed a disqualification from 17 June 2020 and for the disqualification to expire at midnight 26 October 2020, for each charge, to be served concurrently.

Mr Strickland was advised of his right to lodge an internal review regarding this decision.
