

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr David Micallef and Ms Bronwen Leppien

Date: 17th August 2020

Panel: J Adams, P Lane & E Suli

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a stable inspection conducted by QRIC Stewards at the stables of Licensed Trainer David Micallef on the morning of Tuesday 31 March 2020.

It was alleged that during the stable inspection, Stewards observed Mr Micallef and Licensed Stable Employee Ms Bronwen Leppien, attempting to administer a substance by a stomach tube to SAN RAYMOND which was engaged to race in race 9 at the Mackay Turf Club the same day.

After considering all the evidence, Mr Micallef was issued with a charge pursuant to AR 255(1)(c)(i) which states:

A person must not, without the permission of the Stewards attempt to stomach-tube at any time on the day of the race, official trial or jump-out and prior to the start of that event.

The specifics of the charge being that Licensed Trainer Mr David Micallef without the prior permission of Stewards attempted to stomach tube SAN RAYMOND which was engaged to race at the Mackay Turf Club on 31st March 2020.

After considering further submissions, Mr Micallef pleaded guilty to the charge.

Furthermore, Ms Leppien was issued with a charge pursuant to AR 255(1)(d)(i) which states:

A person must not, without the permission of the Stewards be a party to the stomach tubing or attempted stomach-tubing of, a horse engaged to run in a race, official trial or jump out at any time on the day of the race, official trial or jump-out and prior to the start of that event.

The specifics of the charge being that Licensed stable employee Ms Bronwen Leppien without the prior permission of Stewards was a party to the attempted stomach tubing of SAN RAYMOND who was engaged to race at the Mackay Turf Club on 31st March 2020.

After considering further submissions, Ms Leppien pleaded guilty to the charge.

Penalty – David Micallef

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards acknowledged Mr Micallef's unblemished record over a long period and admission of guilt. However, stewards were also mindful that a breach of AR255 attracted a minimum mandatory penalty under the Australian Rules of Racing. In this regard, Stewards also considered whether special circumstances existed which would allow for a reduction in the minimum mandatory penalty. Stewards were unable to find that any special circumstance existed which would allow for any reduction in penalty.

Mr Micallef was disqualified for a period of twelve (12) months from midnight 17 August 2020 to midnight 17 August 2021.

Penalty – Bronwyn Leppien

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards acknowledged Ms Leppien's unblemished record over a long period and admission of guilt. However, stewards were also mindful that a breach of AR255 attracted a minimum mandatory penalty under the Australian Rules of Racing. In this regard, Stewards also considered whether special circumstances existed which would allow for a reduction in the minimum mandatory penalty. Stewards were able to establish special circumstances, which allowed for a reduction in penalty.

Ms Leppien was disqualified for a period of six (6) months from midnight 17 August 2020 to midnight 17 February 2021.

Both David Micallef and Bronwen Leppien were made aware of their rights to an internal review into the finding of the Stewards.