

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Michael Tenardi – Aqua Cruiser

Date: 14 September 2020

Panel: D. Farquharson, N. Torpey, R. McCrae

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) analysis that the prohibited substances namely Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone as defined in Australian Harness Racing (AHR) Rule 188A(1)(b), had been detected in a sample taken from the Michael Tenardi trained horse Aqua Cruiser following its win in race 2 at Redcliffe on 24 June 2020.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 4 August 2020 and on 1 September 2020 Mr Tenardi was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rule, via written correspondence as follows:

AHR Rule 190 (1)

(1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances

The particulars of charge being that:

Licensed trainer Michael Tenardi, as the trainer of Aqua Cruiser, did present that horse to race at Redcliffe on 24 June 2020 when a post-race urine sample taken from Aqua Cruiser, upon analysis, was found to contain the prohibited substances, namely Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone .

At an inquiry on 14 September 2020, Mr Tenardi pleaded guilty to the charge and made submissions relating to the positive finding.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

- * AHR Rule 190(1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse drug free for racing,
- * The offence file of Michael Tenardi and his good record under this rule,
- * Circumstances of the case,

- * Penalty precedents for matters of this type,

* The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

After consideration of these factors, Michael Tenardi was disqualified for a period of 6 months.

Acting under the provision of AHR Rule 195, Aqua Cruiser was disqualified from its winning performance in race 2 at Redcliffe on 24 June 2020 and Stewards directed all placings be amended accordingly.

Mr Tenardi was advised of his right to an internal review.