

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Eric Ferguson – CAMBOOYA ROCK

Date: 23 October 2020

Panel: R Hitchener, B Cooke & B McErlean

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards have concluded an Inquiry into the analyst's finding of testosterone being present at a concentration in excess of the threshold provided for a gelding in the urine samples taken from the Eric Ferguson trained CAMBOOYA ROCK subsequent to that gelding competing in races at Ipswich on 29 June 2018 and Toowoomba on 10 August 2019.

Stewards in determining the matter considered evidence tabled from the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory Science Manager, Dr Adam Cawley, who gave an opinion that an analysis of the steroid profile in the urine samples taken of the gelding in the races in question, as well as out of competition tests taken from the gelding, supported an assertion that the elevated concentration of testosterone could be as a result of endogenous production, due to unusual adrenal gland activity. Mr Cawley's evidence also noted that there was no evidence that the levels of Testosterone reported were as a result of Exogenous administration.

The Stewards found that upon consideration of the scientific and analytical evidence available to them, that they were satisfied that the detected concentration of testosterone in the samples was of endogenous origin or as a result of endogenous activity.

Accordingly, with respect to sample provided on 29 June 2018, Stewards exercised a discretion provided under AR177C and AR178G, (the relevant rules in place at the time of the race) to rule that the provisions of AR177 and AR178 do not apply, irrespective of the samples being found to contain testosterone at a concentration above 20 micrograms per litre.

Further, with respect to sample provided on 10 August, Stewards exercised a discretion provided under AR240(3)(a), (the relevant rule in place at the time of the race) irrespective of the samples being found to contain testosterone at a concentration above 20 micrograms per litre.

As a result there was no action taken against Mr. Ferguson and CAMBOOYA ROCK was not disqualified from the races in question.

Stewards did however advise Mr Ferguson the nomination of CAMBOOYA ROCK may be refused in future should it return any further samples with elevated testosterone levels above the allowable threshold.