

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Kerry Rockett

Date: 16 November 2020

Panel: P Lane, C Warren, M Braunberger & P Warren

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today inquired into a report from the QRIC Integrity Investigations Team (IIT) that two (2) urine samples provided by then licensed Jockey Kerry Rockett on September 30, 2019 and on October 12, 2019 respectively were, upon DNA analysis, found to be from another donor.

After hearing evidence from Mr Rockett, who is currently unlicensed after recently completing a period of 12 months disqualification in relation to a separate matter, and viewing all relevant exhibits, Stewards issued Mr Rockett with two (2) charges pursuant to AR139(1)(b) which states:

A rider breaches these Australian Rules if the rider refuses or fails to deliver a sample as directed by the Stewards, tampers with, adulterates, alters, substitutes, or in any way hinders the collection of, a sample or attempts to do any of those things.

Charge 1

The specifics of charge being that then licensed Jockey Kerry Rockett, on the morning of September 30, 2019 at Tolga Racecourse did, when directed by a member of the QRIC IIT to provide a sample of his urine for analysis, substitute the required sample with a sample, which upon DNA analysis was found to be from another donor.

Charge 2

The specifics of charge being that then licensed Jockey Kerry Rockett, on the afternoon of October 12 2019, at Tolga Racecourse, did, when directed by a member of the QRIC Stipendiary Stewards Panel to provide a sample of his urine for analysis, substitute the required sample with a sample, which upon DNA analysis was found to be from another donor.

Mr Rockett pleaded guilty to both charges and made brief submissions in relation to penalty.

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards considered Mr Rockett's forthright evidence, his admission of guilt, his clear remorse in relation to the incident, and his personal circumstances. However strong consideration had to be given to the seriousness of the offence and the potential ramifications of offending conduct of this nature being undetected. Stewards also considered penalty precedents for similar breaches, the negative impact breaches of this kind have on the sport, and the need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent.

Subsequently, Stewards acting under the provisions of LR 6(a) in relation to both charges, ordered that Mr Rockett be warned off all Australian racecourses for a period of 6 months to commence 16 November 2020 and to expire 16 May 2021.

Mr Rockett was advised of his right to refer the matter to the Internal Reviewer.