

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Stefanie Horner- Shudakeptim

Date: 8 February 2021

Panel: D Aurisch, P Chadwick

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the thoroughbred gelding SHUDAKEPTIM at the Townsville Jockey Club on 9 April 2019.

As a result of the analysts' findings, Stewards charged trainer Mrs Stefanie Horner to a breach of Australian Rule of Racing 240(2), which provides:

Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

The specifics of the charge being that Mrs Stefanie Horner, as the licensed trainer of SHUDAKEPTIM, brought that gelding to the Townsville Jockey Club on 9 April 2018 for the purpose of competing in a race, being the Maiden Handicap over 1300 metres, and a post-race urine sample collected from SHUDAKEPTIM revealed that the prohibited substance Arsenic was present in the subject sample at a level above the permitted threshold.

Mrs Horner entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and made submissions in defence of the charge.

After considering all the evidence and submissions, Stewards were satisfied that sufficient evidence existed to substantiate the charge and subsequently found Mrs Horner guilty.

Mrs Horner made further submissions on penalty and, in determining penalty in relation to the charge, the Stewards considered the following:

1. the nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offence;
2. Mrs Horner's personal circumstances, including the number of horses currently under her care and control and training history;
3. Mrs Horner's unblemished disciplinary history;
4. Mrs Horner's plea of not guilty;
5. the penalty precedents for an offence pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) particular to the substance Arsenic;

6. the strict liability imposed upon trainers to present horses to race free from any prohibited substance in accordance with the Australian Rules of Racing; and
7. the need for the penalty to act as both a specific deterrent to Mr's Horner to reduce the risk of further offending and as a general deterrent to the wider racing industry for the integrity of the racing industry to remain paramount.

The Stewards, having considered the above factors, determined the appropriate penalty for the offence was a fine of \$2000.

Further, in accordance with Australian Rule of Racing 240(2), SHUDAKEPTIM was disqualified from winning the above-mentioned race and the placing's in the above-mentioned race and the placings were amended as follows:

Townsville 9 April 2019 – Maiden Handicap 1300m

1st – TELLMAY

2nd – WRONGLY ACCUSED

3rd – HONEST NATALIE

4th – GOING IN STYLE

Mrs Horner was advised of her rights to apply for an internal review of the decision pursuant to Chapter 6 of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld).
