

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Damien Rideout

Date: 21 April 2021

Panel: J Adams, T Hudson, C Allison and E Suli.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into an injury sustained to LADY SHEILACK en route to the Rockhampton Jockey Club on the 25 August 2020, Trainer Damien Rideout's failing to notify stewards of an injury sustained to LADY SHEILACK, subsequent race day treatment of that mare and possession of a prohibited substance in his vehicle at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on 25th August 2020.

Following the running of Race 4, stewards were notified by the raceday veterinary surgeon that LADY SHEILACK had blood present in both nostrils which was consistent with head trauma. At a subsequent inquiry, it was ascertained that Mr Rideout on arrival at the Rockhampton Jockey Club became aware that LADY SHEILACK had sustained significant lacerations to the head region sustained in his float en route to the course. Shortly thereafter, Mr Rideout was notified that LADY SHEILACK was treated with an antiseptic ointment prior to competing by Licensed stable hand Ms Kala Rideout. Upon inspection of Mr Rideout's vehicle and float, Mr Rideout was found to be in possession of a prohibited substance.

After considering all of the evidence, Trainer Damien Rideout was issued with the following charges.

Charge 1.

Pursuant to AR 105 which states:

Matters that may affect the running of a horse in a race

- (1) The trainer of a horse, or any person that is in control of a horse, that is nominated for a race must:

- (d) if the horse is accepted for the race – as soon as is practicable, report to the Stewards any occurrence, condition, surgery or treatment that may affect the horse's performance in a race where the occurrence takes place, condition is present, surgery is performed or treatment is administered after acceptance time.

The specifics being that Licensed Trainer Damien Rideout prior to the running of race 4 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on 25th August 2020, failed to report to the stewards that LADY SHEILACK had injured its head en route to the racecourse which may have affected the horse's performance in the race.

Charge 2.

Pursuant to AR 251 which states:

Possession of a prohibited substance/equipment at race meeting

(1) A person must not, without the written permission of the Stewards, have in his or her possession:

(b) in any motor vehicle, horse float or other mode of transport used for the purpose of transporting a horse/s to and/or from a race meeting, any prohibited substance, or a syringe, needle, naso-gastric tube or other instrument that could be used:

(ii) to produce a prohibited substance in a horse.

The specifics being that Licensed Trainer Damien Rideout, without the written permission of the stewards had in his motor vehicle a prohibited substance which could be used to produce a prohibited substance in a horse.

Charge 3.

Pursuant to AR 227 which states:

Breaches of the Rules Without limiting any other powers, a PRA or the Stewards may penalise any person who:

(a) commits any breach of the Rules, or engages in conduct or negligence which has led or could have led to a breach of the Rules;

The specifics being that Licensed Trainer Damien Rideout prior to the running of race 4 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on 25th August 2020, negligently failed to report to the stewards that LADY SHEILACK had received race day treatment which led to a breach of the rules.

Mr Rideout plead not guilty to all charges and made further submissions.

After considering the submissions, Stewards were comfortably satisfied that sufficient evidence existed to substantiate the charges and Mr Rideout was formally found guilty of the charges.

Penalty:

When considering an appropriate penalty, stewards view breaches of this kind very seriously, as it can have a detrimental effect on the image of racing, and penalties must serve as a general deterrent to illustrate to the entire racing industry that these activities cannot be condoned. Stewards also took into account previous penalties for breaches of this rule, penalty submissions and Mr Rideout's record.

Charge 1.

Mr Rideout was disqualified for a period of six (6) months. Acting under the provision of AR283(7) stewards deferred the commencement of the disqualification for a period of 7 days to commence 29 April 2021 and to conclude 29 October 2021. Mr Rideout was advised of the provision of AR283(8).

Charge 2.

Mr Rideout was fined the sum of \$500.

Charge 3.

Mr Rideout was fined the sum of \$2000

Mr Rideout and was made aware of his right to an internal review into the findings of the Stewards.