

Stewards' Report

Stewards' Report – Harness Trainer – Shawn Grimsey

Date – 6 May 2021

Panel – D. Farquharson, L. Wilson & N. Torpey

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the analysts finding of the prohibited substance *Epitrenbolone* in a post race sample taken from Luvumum following its winning performance at Albion Park on 1 September 2018.

Trainer Shawn Grimsey was issued with a charge pursuant to Australian Harness Racing Rule 190(1) which reads:

A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

The specifics of the charge being that:

Shawn Grimsey did present Luvumum to race at Albion Park on 1 September 2018 when a urine sample taken from Luvumum, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Epitrenbolone

Submissions were received from Mr. Grimsey who pleaded not guilty to the charge as issued. QRIC Stewards after carefully considering these submissions found Mr Grimsey guilty of the charge.

After finding Mr Grimsey guilty QRIC Stewards received further submissions on penalty. In considering penalty QRIC Stewards were mindful of the following:

1. The nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offence;
2. Mr Grimsey's personal circumstances, character, and general background
3. Mr Grimsey's disciplinary history
4. The penalty precedents for breaches of Australian Harness Racing Rule 190(1) and Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) specific to the prohibited substance Epitrenbolone;
6. Mr Grimsey's plea of not guilty;

The Stewards' Panel gave significant consideration to this matter and recognised the unique circumstances associated with this case. An initial notice issued by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission on 21 June 2018 warned trainers that some Altrenogest products may contain Trenbolone and Trendione and that the Commission was making further investigations, was a warning to trainers to evaluate their husbandry practices at that time.

A further notice was issued by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission on 15 October 2018 which expressly stated that testing batches of oral and injectable forms of products containing Altrenogest by Racing Victoria integrity services department had confirmed that such products may contain Trenbolone and/or Trendione. This notice reiterated Trenbolone and/or Trendione are permanently banned substances with the potential of prolonged detection times. It further stated in this notice that the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission advised trainers that the use of Altrenogest containing products be discontinued immediately. Stewards acknowledge that this notice was issued six weeks after Luvumum had won at Albion Park on 1 September 2018. A conviction under AHR rule 190(1) was recorded against Mr Grimsey.

Based on the evidence before the panel, and in particular the date the second warning letter of 15 October 2018 issued by the Commission advising trainers to cease using Altrenogest based products immediately, Stewards were not satisfied to the requisite standard that a penalty should be imposed against Mr Grimsey on this occasion.

Acting under the provisions of Australian Harness Rule 195, Luvumum was disqualified from its winning performance on 1 September 2018, and the placings amended accordingly.

Due to the period of time that has elapsed from the date of the collection of the first subject sample from Luvumum, Australian Harness racing Rule 190AA(4) will not be invoked.

Mr Grimsey was reminded of his rights to internal review.