

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Chris Munce – Sky Lake

Date: 12 April 2022

Panel: P Chadwick, and D Aurisch

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Epi-trenbolone was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the thoroughbred mare Sky Lake at the Sunshine Coast Race Meeting on 28 October 2018.

The inquiry was initially conducted via written correspondence whereby Stewards considered documentary evidence from the Racing Science Centre and the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory and subsequently charged trainer Mr Chris Munce pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing 240(2).

Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) 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 charges being that Mr Munce, as the licensed trainer of Sky Lake, brought that mare to the Sunshine Coast Race meeting on 28 October 2018 for the purpose of competing in a race, being Race 5 Kendrick Racing Class 4 Handicap over 1400 metres, and an analysis of the post-race urine sample collected from Sky Lake detected the presence of Epi-trenbolone in the sample, which is a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A of the Australian Rules of Racing.

Mr Munce pleaded guilty to the charge and subsequently made submissions in respect of any penalty to be imposed.

In determining penalty in relation to the charge, the Stewards considered the following:

1. The nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offence,
2. Mr Munce's personal circumstances, character and general background, noting Mr Munce has held a Trainer's licence for over 7 years and has been licensed in the racing industry for over 30 years. Also that he currently employs numerous Staff and currently has 40 - 50 horses in work,

3. Mr Munce's disciplinary history, noting that he has held a Thoroughbred Trainer's Licence for over seven (7) years and that his disciplinary history showed no previous prohibited substance positives prior to this matter.

4. A notice was issued by QRIC on 21 June 2018 warning in regard to the use of products containing Altrenogest.

5. Another notice in regard to an update on Altrenogest was issued 15 October 2018 advising Trainers to discontinue immediately the use of oral and injectable forms of products containing Altrenogest

6. The penalty precedents for breaches of Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) specific to the prohibited substance Epi-trenbolone; and

7. The requirement for penalties to act as both a specific deterrent to Mr Munce 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.

Based on the evidence before the panel, noting that this sample was taken 28 October 2018 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.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of Australian Rule of Racing 240(1), Sky Lake is disqualified from its 1st placing in the Kendrick Racing Class 4 Handicap over 1400 metres and the placings were amended accordingly.

Due to the period of time that has elapsed from the date of the collection of the subject sample from Sky Lake, Australian Rule of Racing 248(4) cannot be effected. However, Sky Lake competed in eleven (11) races throughout the twelve month period following the detection of the positive sample and Sky Lake obtained two wins during that time.

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