

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Tina Cotsiopoulos– Grace Of Monaco

Date: 13 April 2022

Panel: Paul Zimmermann, Peter Chadwick, Daniel Aurisch

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance Cobalt over the prescribed limit was detected in a urine sample taken from Grace Of Monaco at the Gold Coast on 6 April 2019.

After considering all of the evidence, Ms Cotsiopoulos was issued with one (1) charge pursuant to AR 240 which states:

Subject to AR240(2), when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging 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 such horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

The particulars being that Ms Tina Cotsiopoulos as the trainer of Grace Of Monaco, which was brought to the Gold Coast on 6 April 2019, for the purpose of participating in the TAB Maiden Plate 900 metres and a post-race urine sample taken from it was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Cobalt.

Ms Cotsiopoulos pleaded guilty to the charge and her legal representative made detailed submissions regarding the matter of penalty.

When considering an appropriate penalty for this breach, Stewards considered that Ms Cotsiopoulos had a previous unblemished record over a long period of approximately 38 years. The personal circumstances of Ms Cotsiopoulos were also considered. Stewards recognised that breaches of this kind have a negative impact to the image of thoroughbred racing and a penalty must serve as both a specific deterrent to Ms Cotsiopoulos and a general deterrent to the wider industry to illustrate that these matters will result in the imposition of a significant penalty.

Stewards when considering recent penalty precedents suspended Ms Cotsiopoulos licence to train for a period of 12 months which under the provisions AR283(5) fully suspended the operation of the penalty for a period for two years (24 months), on the proviso that Ms Cotsiopoulos does not reoffend under this rule regarding the prohibited substance Cobalt. Ms Cotsiopoulos was also fined \$5000.

Under the provisions of AR240(1), Grace Of Monaco was disqualified from its placings in the above-mentioned race and the placing were amended as follows:

Gold Coast – TAB MAIDEN PLATE 900m – 6 April 2019

- 1st – Per Ardua
- 2nd - Sportini
- 3rd – Foxy Bella
- 4th – Dragon By Day

Ms Cotsiopoulos was advised of her rights to an internal review.