

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Bradley Forge

Date: 1 September 2022

Panel: D. Farquharson, N. Torpey, F. Hartford

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance Arsenic above the allowable threshold had been detected in a sample taken from the Bradley Forge trained horse Akermanis following its winning performance at Redcliffe on 20 July 2022.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 3 August 2022 and on 19 August 2022 Mr Forge was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rules, via written correspondence as follows:

AHR Rule 190 (1)

(1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances

The particulars of charge being that:

Bradley Forge, as the licensed trainer of Akermanis, did present that horse to race at Redcliffe on 20 July 2022 when a post race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Arsenic above the allowable threshold.

On 31 August 2022, Mr Forge entered a guilty plea to the charge via written correspondence and provided further submissions in regard to penalty.

On 1 September 2022 Stewards decided on the matter of penalty after giving careful consideration to the following:

- Notifications have been communicated to the racing industry trainers to be vigilant and ensure stable environments are free of contaminants;
- AHR Rule 190 (1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse drug free for racing,
- The good record of Bradley Forge under this rule,
- Personal circumstances as outlined in submission,
- Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

Mr Bradley Forge was fined the sum of \$2,000.

Stewards further acting under the provisions of AHR 195 determined that Akermanis be disqualified from its winning performance in race 9 at Redcliffe on 20 July 2022 and all remaining placings be adjusted accordingly. Mr Forge was advised of his rights to an internal review.