

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Clae Usher

Date: 21 September 2022

Panel: Shane Larkins and Gary Wust

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today inquired into a report regarding a urine sample provided by licensed stable hand Mr Clae Usher when he performed stable duties at Rockhampton on the morning of 29 July 2022. The urine sample was reported to have contained a banned substance as defined under the provisions of AR137(1).

After considering the submissions of Mr Usher, he pleaded guilty to a charge under AR140(1)(a) which reads as follows;

“A horse handler breaches these Australian Rules if:”

(a) a banned substance under AR137(1) is detected in a sample taken from the horse handler;

The specifics of the charge being that Mr Usher, as a licensed stable hand, did provide a sample of urine at Rockhampton on 29 July 2022 after performing stable duties, which upon analysis contained a banned substance as determined under the provisions of AR137(1).

When determining penalty, Stewards were mindful of the circumstances of this case, Mr Usher's guilty plea and his prior clear record. Stewards also considered the negative impact of industry participants performing duties when not free of banned substances and the need for a penalty to act as both a general and specific deterrent. Furthermore, usual penalties which have been issued in the past under similar circumstances were also considered.

Mr Usher's stable hand licence was suspended in full for a period of 3 months to commence on 16 August 2022, the day on which he was stood down from performing stable hand duties, and to expire on 16 November 2022.

Mr Usher was advised that under the provisions of AR140(4) that he is required to provide a urine sample that is free of any banned substances prior to his licence being reinstated.

Mr Usher was advised of his rights to an internal review.