

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Rhiannon Payne

**Date: 14/09/2022**

**Panel: C Warren & P Lane**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today conducted an inquiry regarding the results of a urine sample taken from Licensed Jockey Rhiannon Payne at Toowoomba Turf Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 on a morning she had been riding track-work.

After hearing all submissions Ms Rhiannon Payne pleaded guilty to a charge under the provisions of AR139(1)(a) which reads:

*(1) A rider breaches these Australian Rules if:*

*(a) a banned substance under AR136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider.*

The particulars of the charge being that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022 Ms Payne did provide a urine sample at Toowoomba Turf Club which upon subsequent analysis was found to contain a substance banned under AR136(1).

In determining penalty Stewards were mindful of the specific circumstances of the case, Ms Payne's forthright evidence, her guilty plea and her clear record over a significant period of time in the racing industry as well as her personal circumstances. Stewards considered relevant precedents, the negative effect breaches of this kind have on the image of the industry and also noted the serious nature of the breach and the need for any penalty to serve not only as a specific deterrent to Ms Payne but to the industry cohort as a whole.

Subsequently, Stewards determined a one (1) month suspension of Ms Payne's licence in respect to all riding duties was warranted in this instance, to commence from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, the day on which she was stood down riding, up to and including 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Additionally, acting under the provisions of AR283(5) Stewards ordered one (1) week of that suspension to be wholly suspended for a period of two (2) years from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022, under the proviso that Ms Payne does not reoffend under this, or any similar rule again during that period.

Stewards further ordered that under the provisions of AR139(4) Ms Payne must provide a urine sample free of any banned substances prior to being permitted to return to riding duties.

Ms Payne was advised of her right to an internal review.

