

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Brendan Barnes

Date: 24 November 2022

Panel: D. Farquharson, R. McCrae & N. Torpey

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today 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 prescribed threshold as defined in Australian Harness Racing (AHR) Rule 188A(2)(b) had been detected in a sample taken from the Brendan Barnes trained horse Pacific Drums following its winning trial performance at Redcliffe on 31 August 2022.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 7 October and on 2 November 2022 Mr Brendan Barnes was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rule, 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:

Licensed trainer Brendan Barnes, as the trainer of Pacific Drums, did present that horse to trial at Redcliffe on 31 August 2022 when a post-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Arsenic above the prescribed threshold as defined in AHR rule 188A(2)(b).

On 19 November 2022, Mr Barnes pleaded guilty to the charge via written correspondence.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

- * AHR Rule 190 (1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse drug free for racing,
- * Notifications have been communicated to the racing industry regarding the substance Arsenic and for trainers to be vigilant and ensure stable environments are free of contaminants,
- * The offence file of Brendan Barnes and his good record under this rule,
- * Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- * The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

Stewards imposed a fine of \$2000.

Acting under the provisions of AHR rule 195 Pacific Drums was disqualified from its trial performance at Redcliffe on 31 August 2022 and all other placing were amended accordingly.

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

