

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Ron Sallis

Date: 20 April 2023

Panel: D. Farquharson, S. Shinn & F. Hartford

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 substances Temazepam and Oxazepam had been detected in pre race urine samples taken from the Ron Sallis trained horse The Weekend prior to it competing at Redcliffe on 11 January 2023 and at Albion Park on 4 February 2023.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 6 February 2023 and on 1 March 2023, Mr Ron Sallis 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:

Licensed trainer Ron Sallis, as the trainer of The Weekend, did present that horse to race at Redcliffe on 11 January 2023 when a pre-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain the prohibited substances, namely Temazepam and Oxazepam.

On 30 March 2023, Mr Ron Sallis was issued with a further 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:

Licensed trainer Ron Sallis, as the trainer of The Weekend, did present that horse to race at Albion Park on 4 February 2023 when a pre-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain the prohibited substances, namely Temazepam and Oxazepam.

At an inquiry on Thursday 20 April March 2023, Mr Sallis pleaded not guilty to both charges and provided submissions in support of his pleas.

Following careful consideration of the evidence available to Stewards, Mr Sallis was found guilty of both charges.

Today 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,
- * The offence file of Ron Sallis and his good record under this rule over decades as a licensed trainer,
- * Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- * The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.
- * Stewards were satisfied the detection of Oxazepam and Temazepam had resulted from environmental contamination.
- * The source of the environmental contamination was a septic sewer system and the use of a human prescribed medication used by an occupant of the residence.

In relation to the charge issued on 1 March 2023, Stewards imposed a fine of \$3000 fully suspended for two years.

In relation to the charge issued on 30 March 2023, Stewards imposed a fine of \$3000 fully suspended for a period of 2 years.

Acting under the provisions of AHR rule 195 The Weekend was disqualified from its performance at Redcliffe on 11 January 2023 and at Albion Park on 4 February 2023, and all other placings were amended accordingly.

Mr Sallis was advised of his rights to appeal to the Racing Appeal Panel.