

Stewards Report: Jessica Emmerson

Date: Thursday 15 June 2023

Panel: Emily Tickner, Clayton Warren & Tony Preston

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry regarding the results of a urine sample taken from licensed track-rider/stable-hand Jessica Emmerson at Toowoomba Turf Club on 1 May 2023, on a morning she had been riding track-work.

Documentary evidence was tabled from Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL), along with evidence from Jessica Emmerson and her employer Tracey Hatch.

After considering all evidence Ms Emmerson was issued with a charge pursuant to AR139(1) 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 Monday, 1 May 2023 Ms Emmerson 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 particularly that the substance was associated with a prescribed medication, Ms Emmerson's forthright evidence, her guilty plea and her clear record over her time employed 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 Emmerson but to the industry cohort as a whole.

Subsequently, Stewards determined a six (6) week suspension of Ms Emmerson's licence in respect to all riding and stable duties was warranted in this instance, to commence from the 24 May 2023, the day on which she was stood down from riding, up to and including 5 July 2023. Additionally, acting under the provisions of AR283(5) Stewards ordered two (2) weeks of that suspension to be wholly suspended for a period of two (2) years from the 24 May 2023, under the proviso that Ms Emmerson does not reoffend under this, or any similar rule again during that period. Stewards further ordered that under the provisions of AR139(4) Ms Emmerson must provide a urine sample free of any banned substances prior to being permitted to return to riding duties. Ms Emmerson was advised of her rights to appeal.