

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Stephen Wilson (Jockey)

Date: 22 August 2023

Panel: P. Gillard, S. Copelin Y. Walburgh Schmidt & A. Holzhauser

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today inquired into the results of a sample of breath provided by licensed jockey Stephen Wilson at Ladbrokes Cannon Park, Cairns Racecourse on Saturday, 19 August 2023.

At that meeting Jockey Wilson was stood down by Stewards prior to fulfilling any riding engagements after conducting an interview with him in respect of his alcohol consumption on the previous night on Friday, 18 August 2023.

A subsequent breath analysis conducted by Stewards revealed a reading in excess of the concentration of alcohol permitted under the Rules of Racing.

Charge: AR139(1)(a) – Offences where riders use banned substances

The specifics of the charge being that licensed jockey Mr Stephen Wilson, breached AR 139(1)(a) by reason of the following particulars:

1. He did accept riding engagements at the Ladbrokes Cannon Park Cairns Race Meeting on Saturday, 19 August 2023.
2. On Saturday, 19 August 2023 he attended Ladbrokes Cannon Park Racecourse for the purpose of fulfilling his riding engagements. He was subsequently interviewed by QRIC Stewards, and he advised them that he had consumed an amount of alcohol on the night of 18 August 2023.
3. QRIC Stewards took a sample of his breath with a breath analysing instrument, in accordance with their powers under AR22(h).
4. The sample he provided was found, upon analysis, to have a concentration of alcohol that was in excess of the level permitted under the Rules of Racing.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty

QRIC Stewards considered the following matters when determining an appropriate penalty.

- Guilty plea and cooperation with Stewards both at the Ladbrokes Cannon Park race meeting on Saturday, 19 August 2023 and at today's hearing.
- Professional and personal circumstances.

- Genuine remorse displayed for this breach of the rules and his undertaking to seek professional assistance.
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the Thoroughbred racing industry.

Penalty: 3 months suspension of his jockey's licence to ride, reduced to 2 months suspension for his guilty plea and other relevant considerations as set out above. Accordingly, he was suspended for a period to commence on Saturday, 19 August 2023, the day upon which he was stood down by Stewards, and to expire on 19 October, 2023 on which day he may resume riding.

Mr Wilson was advised that, upon the production of satisfactory evidence of him having committed to professional counselling, consideration would be given by Stewards to varying the suspension of his jockey's licence to ride, to a suspension of his entitlement to ride in races only, which would allow him to return to riding trackwork.

He was further advised that prior to resuming riding in races on 19 October 2023 he would also have to satisfy other conditions required by Stewards.

Relevant Rules

AR139(1)(a) Offences where riders use banned substances

(1) A rider breaches these Australian Rules if:

(a) a banned substance under AR 136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider

AR136(1) Banned substances in relation to riders

(1) Unless otherwise stated in these Australian Rules, the following substances and/or their metabolites, artefacts and isomers are specified as banned substances in riders when detected in a urine sample at a concentration above the respective threshold level:

(f) alcohol (at a blood alcohol concentration in excess of 0.02% (that is, 20 milligrams of alcohol in every 100 millilitres of blood) on a breath analysing instrument)

Mr Wilson was advised of his rights to an RAP Review of the steward's decision.

