

Stewards Report: Mr Paul Duncan

Date: 28 August 2023

Panel: G. Goold and P. Zimmerman

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards finalised an inquiry in relation to a sample taken from the Paul Duncan trained GLEN MASSEY (NZ) after its winning performance in Race 3, the *PFD FOODSERVICES Maiden Plate* over 2200 metres conducted at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club on 28 May 2023.

The results of the analysis conducted by both the Racing Science Centre (QLD) and Racing Analytical Services LTD (VIC) revealed that the urine sample collected from GLEN MASSEY (NZ) contained Dexamethasone.

After considering the provided certificates of analysis issued by the Racing Science Centre and the Racing Analytical Services LTD stating the presence of Dexamethasone, Stewards issued Mr Duncan with a charge pursuant to AR 240(2) which states:

Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/ or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

The specifics of the charge as follows:

- 1: Mr Paul Duncan, is, and was at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC).
- 2: Mr Paul Duncan was at the relevant time the licensed trainer of GLEN MASSEY (NZ).
- 3: On the 28th May 2023 GLEN MASSEY (NZ) was brought to the Sunshine Coast Turf Club for the purpose of competing in a race, that being Race 3 *the PFD FOODSERVICES Maiden Plate* over 2200 metres
- 4: A prohibited substance was detected in analysis of the post-race urine sample collected from GLEN MASSEY (NZ), that substance being Dexamethasone.
5. Dexamethasone is a prohibited substance pursuant to Division 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Australian Rules of Racing (Prohibited List B).

Mr Duncan subsequently pleaded guilty to the charge as issued for the contravention of Australian Rule of Racing AR 240(2) and provided Stewards with written submissions in relation to the matter of penalty.

Whilst Australian Racing Rule AR 240(2) carries with it an absolute liability upon the trainer to present their horse to race free of prohibited substances, the blameworthiness on the part of the trainer is to be considered and whether a penalty may be imposed by Stewards.

Further consideration was also given to:

- Mr Duncan's reasons for Dexamethasone being present in the sample of *GLEN MASSEY (NZ)*.
- Mr Duncan's culpability.
- Mr Duncan's guilty plea and remorse shown.
- Mr Duncan's personal circumstances.
- Mr Duncan's offence 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.

After careful consideration of all the above regarding the matter involving *GLEN MASSEY (NZ)*, as well as when considering recent penalty precedents, Stewards imposed a fine of \$3000.

As a result of the above determination, Stewards pursuant to the provisions of AR 240(1) disqualify *GLEN MASSEY (NZ)* from its first placing in Race 3 *the PFD FOODSERVICES Maiden Plate* over 2200 metres at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club on 28 May 2023 and direct the placings to be amended accordingly.

Against this Stewards decision Mr Duncan was advised of his rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeal Panel.