

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Colin Godden

Date: 14 October 2023

Panel: D. Farquharson, N. Torpey, W. Barr

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards commenced an inquiry on 6 September 2023 into reports from the Queensland Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Service Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance Tapentadol had been detected in a sample taken from the Colin Godden trained horse Didshedoit NZ following its winning performance at Redcliffe on 7 August 2023.

On 28 September 2023, Mr Godden was issued with a charge pursuant to AHR Rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rules, as follows:

AHR Rule 190 (1)

(1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

The particulars being that:

Licensed trainer Mr Colin Godden, as the trainer of Didshedoit NZ did present that horse to race at Redcliffe on 7 August 2023 when a post-race urine sample taken from the horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Tapentadol.

On 13 October 2023, Mr Godden registered a guilty plea in a submission tendered by his lawyer Damian Sheales.

Today, after careful consideration of the facts and considering the further submissions tendered by Damian Sheales on behalf of Mr Godden, Stewards found Colin Godden guilty of the charge.

Stewards considered:

- 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 Colin Godden which indicates no previous breaches of this rule,
- Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific,
- Forthright evidence and guilty plea of Colin Godden

Stewards directed under AHR Rule 190(1) – that a fine of \$5000 be imposed.

Acting under the provisions of AHR rule 195, Didshedit NZ shall be disqualified from its winning performance in race 1 at Redcliffe on 7 August 2023, and all remaining placegetters will be amended accordingly.

Mr Godden was advised of his rights of review to the Racing Appeal Panel.