

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Mitch Faulkner - WEST CORK

Date: 7th March 2024

Panel: Brett Wright, Danielle McMahon, Shae Borg (Cadet)

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today inquired into a report from the RSC Analyst that the prohibited substance Heptaminol was detected in the urine sample taken from WEST CORK, following its winning performance at Ipswich on 23 November 2023.

After considering the evidence, Mr Faulkner was issued with a charge pursuant to AR 240(2) which states:

(2) Subject to AR240(3), if a horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging 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 such horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

The particulars of charge being that on Thursday 23 November 2023, Mr Mitch Faulkner, as a licensed trainer with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and the registered trainer of WEST CORK, brought the gelding to the Ipswich Racecourse for the purpose of engaging in Race 7, The Barrier Reef Pools Class 1 Handicap 1690m. A post-race urine sample was taken following its winning performance, which upon analysis, detected Heptaminol: a substance prohibited under the Australian Rules of Racing pursuant to Division 1 Prohibited List B due to its effects on the cardiovascular system and thus breaching the requirements of AR 240(2).

Mr Faulkner pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$2000.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered Mr Faulkner's guilty plea, his personal circumstances, the nature, circumstances, and seriousness of the offence; his disciplinary history; precedents for an offence pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing 240(2), in regard to the substance Heptaminol; and the need for the penalty to act as both a specific deterrent to Mr Faulkner to reduce the risk of further offending and as a general deterrent to the wider racing industry.

Mr Faulkner was also issued a charge pursuant to AR 104(1) which states:

(1) A trainer must record any medication or treatment administered to any horse in the trainer's care by midnight on the day on which the administration was given.

The particulars of charge being that Mr Mitch Faulkner, a licensed trainer with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and the registered trainer of WEST CORK, failed to record the treatment administered to that gelding prior to it racing at Ipswich in Race 7, The Barrier Reef Pools Class 1 Handicap over 1690m on Thursday 23rd November 2023, as required under the Rules of Racing.

Mr Faulkner pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$300.

Further, under the provisions of AR240(1), WEST CORK was disqualified from its first placing in the above-mentioned race and the placings were amended as follows:

1st – TAMBOURINE MAN

2nd – DUCHESS BREE

3rd – MIGHTY JUDD

4th – TOOLATEMATE

5th – RUSSIAN MYSTIC