

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Katerina Hall and Drew Crouch

Date: 13 December 2024

Panel: Shane Larkins, Emily Tickner, Shikira Stehbens, Hayden Gillett

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analysts findings in relation to blood samples collected from the horses KAISA, taken prior to it competing in race (2) the SKY RACING MAIDEN HANDICAP 1200M on 19 March 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting, CASHIN' CHEX, taken prior to it competing in race seven (7) the IMS BENCHMARK 60 HANDICAP 1100M on 11 May 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting and CASHIN' CHEX taken prior to it competing in race six (6) the LADBROKES YARD COMMENTS CLASS 6 HANDICAP 1300M on 6 June 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting.

The analysts from the Racing Science Centre, Queensland and Racing Analytical Services Ltd in Victoria reported that the samples contained the presence of Caffeine and its associated metabolites, Theobromine, Theophylline and Paraxanthine.

Submissions were made by Ms Katerina Hall, Mr Drew Crouch (licensed stablehand at the relevant time of the races in question) and owner, Mr Adam Tutty.

After considering the evidence in its entirety the following charges were issued.

Katerina Hall

Charge 1

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse
AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting
(2) 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 were as follows;

Ms Katerina Hall, as the trainer of the thoroughbred KAISA at the relevant time before and after it competed in race (2) the SKY RACING MAIDEN HANDICAP 1200M on 19 March 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting and upon analysis a pre-race blood sample had caffeine and its associated metabolites detected by Racing Science Centre, Queensland and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Ltd, she did breach these Australian Rules by presenting the horse when not free of prohibited

substances.

Ms Hall pleaded guilty to the charge.

Charge 2

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(2) 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 were as follows;

Ms Katerina Hall, as the trainer of the thoroughbred CASHIN' CHEX, at the relevant time before and after it competed in race seven (7) the IMS BENCHMARK 60 HANDICAP 1100M on 11 May 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting and upon analysis a pre-race blood sample had caffeine and its associated metabolites detected by Racing Science Centre, Queensland and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Ltd, she did breach these Australian Rules by presenting the horse when not free of prohibited substances.

Ms Hall pleaded guilty to the charge.

Charge 3

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(2) 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 were as follows;

Ms Katerina Hall, as the trainer of the thoroughbred CASHIN' CHEX, at the relevant time before and after it competed in race six (6) the LADBROKES YARD COMMENTS CLASS 6 HANDICAP 1300M on 6 June 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting and upon analysis a pre-race blood sample had caffeine and its associated metabolites detected by Racing Science Centre, Queensland and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Ltd, she did breach these Australian Rules by presenting the horse when not free of prohibited substances.

Ms Hall pleaded guilty to the charge.

When assessing penalty stewards considered the following factors.

- Ms Hall's immediate plea of guilty to the charges;
- Ms Hall's full cooperation throughout the investigation and inquiry process;
- Ms Hall's time in the thoroughbred racing industry as a trainer, being approximately two (2) years;
- Ms Hall's clear disciplinary history.
- The current number of horses currently in training under Ms Hall's care and custody, being two (2) horses;
- Ms Hall's personal circumstances.
- The nature of the prohibited substance, Caffeine, being classified as a Prohibited List B substance;
- The need to maintain the integrity of thoroughbred racing industry and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- The need for both specific deterrence to Ms Hall and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- The need for the general public to maintain confidence in the integrity control of the thoroughbred racing industry;
- Relevant penalty precedents of similar categorised substances;
- The Human Rights Act 2019;

Stewards were also mindful that Ms Hall had not been notified of the first sample anomaly for KAISA until after CASHIN' CHEX had competed at Mackay on 11 May 2024 but had knowledge of the anomaly prior to CASHIN' CHEX being presented to race on 6 June 2024.

The following penalties were imposed against Ms Hall;

Charges 1 and 2 combined AR 240(2) Fined \$2000

Charge 3 AR 240(2) Fined \$3000

Ms Hall was advised of her rights to appeal.

Drew Crouch

Charge 1

***Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse
AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting
(2) 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 were as follows;

Mr Drew Crouch, as a person in charge of the thoroughbred KAISA at the relevant time before and after it competed in race (2) the SKY RACING MAIDEN HANDICAP 1200M on 19 March 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting and upon analysis a pre-race blood sample had caffeine and its associated metabolites detected by Racing Science Centre, Queensland and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Ltd, he did breach these Australian Rules by presenting the horse when not free of prohibited substances.

Mr Drew Crouch pleaded guilty to the charge.

Charge 2

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(2) 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 were as follows;

Mr Drew Crouch, as a person in charge of the thoroughbred CASHIN' CHEX, at the relevant time before and after it competed in race seven (7) the IMS BENCHMARK 60 HANDICAP 1100M on 11 May 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting and upon analysis a pre-race blood sample had caffeine and its associated metabolites detected by Racing Science Centre, Queensland and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Ltd, he did breach these Australian Rules by presenting the horse when not free of prohibited substances.

Mr Crouch pleaded guilty to the charge.

Charge 3

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(2) 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 were as follows;

Mr Drew Crouch, as a person in charge of the thoroughbred CASHIN' CHEX, at the relevant time before and after it competed in race six (6) the LADBROKES YARD COMMENTS CLASS 6 HANDICAP 1300M on 6 June 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting and upon analysis a pre-race blood sample had caffeine and its associated metabolites detected by Racing Science Centre, Queensland and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Ltd, he did breach these Australian Rules by presenting the horse when not free of prohibited substances.

Mr Crouch pleaded guilty to the charge.

When assessing penalty stewards considered the following factors.

- Mr Crouch's immediate plea of guilty to the charge;
- Mr Crouch's full cooperation throughout the investigation and inquiry process;
- Mr Crouch was a licensed stablehand at the time of the relevant races in question;
- Mr Crouch's time in the thoroughbred racing industry as a trainer, being approximately five (5) years;
- Mr Crouch's disciplinary history, noting he has had one (1) prior breach of the Prohibited Substances Rules in five (5) years of training;
- The current number of horses currently in training under Mr Crouch's care and custody, being eleven (11) horses;
- The current number of staff that Mr Crouch employs;
- Mr Crouch's personal circumstances.
- The nature of the prohibited substance, Caffeine, being classified as Prohibited List B substances;
- The need to maintain the integrity of thoroughbred racing industry and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- The need for both specific deterrence to Mr Crouch and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- The need for the general public to maintain confidence in the integrity control of the thoroughbred racing industry;
- Relevant penalty precedents of similar categorised substances;
- The Human Rights Act 2019;

Stewards were also mindful that Mr Crouch had not been notified of the first sample anomaly for KAISA until after CASHIN' CHEX had competed at Mackay on 11 May 2024 but had knowledge of the anomaly prior to CASHIN' CHEX being presented to race on 6 June 2024.

The following penalties were imposed against Mr Crouch;

Charges 1 and 2 combined AR 240(2) Fined \$3000

Charge 3 AR 240(2) \$4000

Mr Crouch was advised of his rights to appeal.

Stewards gave consideration to the provisions of AR 240(1) which reads;

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(1) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse 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 horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.

After considering submissions from Managing Owner / Owner of KAISA, and CASHIN' CHEX, Mr Adam Tutty, in accordance with AR 240(1) both horses were disqualified from the subject races and placings are ordered to be amended accordingly.