

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr. Matthew Gray

Date: 18 December 2024

Panel: Mr W. Wain & Mr R. Jackson

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry today into the analyst's report from Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL), which confirmed that a urine sample provided by licensed jockey Mr. Matthew Gray at Doomben Racecourse on Wednesday, 13 November 2024, contained a banned substance.

After reviewing the evidence presented, Mr. Gray pleaded guilty to a charge under AR 139(1)(a) for providing a urine sample at Doomben on Wednesday, 13 November 2024, which, upon analysis, was found to contain a substance banned under AR 136(1).

The details of the offence are as follows:

AR 139(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.

The specifics of the charge being:

That Mr. Matthew Gray, being a licensed jockey with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, on 13 November 2024, provided a urine sample following Race 2 at Doomben. The analysis of this sample detected the presence of a banned substance under AR 136(1) of the Australian Rules of Racing.

Mr. Gray pleaded guilty to the charge and provided submissions regarding the penalty. In determining an appropriate penalty, the Stewards took the following into consideration:

- Mr. Gray's guilty plea to the charge and his full admissions.
- Mr. Gray's disciplinary history, including one prior breach of this rule in 2002.
- Mr. Gray's forthright evidence and demonstrated genuine remorse.
- Mr. Gray's personal circumstances.
- Recent penalty precedents.
- The stated reason for taking the medication, being for pain relief.
- Considerations under the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, the Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty is a suspension of Mr. Gray's licence to ride in races for a period of twenty (20) days.

The Stewards determined that the suspension would commence from the date of Mr. Gray being stood down being midnight the 13 December 2024 and conclude at midnight on 1 January 2025. Mr. Gray will be eligible to resume riding on 2 January 2025.

Mr. Gray was informed that prior to recommencing his riding duties he will be required to provide a clean urinalysis sample.

Mr. Gray was advised of his appeal rights.