

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Alanah Richardson

Date: 20 January 2025

Panel: D. Farquharson, N. Torpey, J. Cremin

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance Cobalt above the prescribed threshold as defined in Australian Harness Racing (AHR) Rule 188A(2)(k) had been detected in a sample taken from the Alanah Richardson trained horse Arendelle following its performance at Albion Park on 25 October 2024.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 14 November 2024 and on 10 December 2024, Alanah Richardson was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rules, via written correspondence as follows:

AHR Rule 190 (1)

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

The particulars of charge being that:

Licensed trainer Alanah Richardson, as the trainer of Arendelle, did present that horse to race at Albion Park on 25 October 2024 when a pre-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Cobalt above the prescribed threshold as defined in AHR rule 188A(2)(k).

On 18 December 2024, Alanah Richardson recorded a plea of guilty to the charge under AHR rule 190(1) via written correspondence from her legal counsel and provided further submissions on penalty should one be imposed.

On 20 January 2025, Stewards found the evidence supportive of a guilty finding under AHR rule 190(1).

Stewards decided on the matter of penalty and gave careful consideration to:

- * 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 Alanah Richardson which indicated a good record under this rule,
- * The personal and financial circumstances of Alanah Richardson,
- * Penalty precedents for matters of this type,

* The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

Alanah Richardson was fined the sum of \$6000 and her trainer's licence was suspended for a period of 12 months. Acting under the provisions of AHR rule 256(5)(a), Stewards suspended this term of suspension for a period of 2 years on the condition Ms Richardson does not reoffend under AHR rule 190(1).

Stewards further determined that Arendelle be disqualified from its third placing at Albion Park on 25 October 2024 under the provisions of AHR 195 and all remaining placings be adjusted accordingly.

Alanah Richardson was advised of her rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeals Panel.

Ends