

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: John McMullen

Date: 7 January 2025

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

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into reports from the QRIC Racing Science Centre (RSC) and the Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) that the prohibited substance Triamcinolone Acetonide had been detected in a sample taken from the John McMullen trained gelding Studleigh Mark following its performance at Albion Park on 4 October 2024.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 8 November 2024 and on 2 December 2024 Mr McMullen was issued with a charge pursuant to rule 190(1) of the Australian Harness Racing (AHR) rule, 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 John McMullen, as the trainer of Studleigh Mark, did present that horse to race at Albion Park on 4 October 2024 when a pre-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Triamcinolone Acetonide.

On 18 December 2024, Mr McMullen pleaded guilty to the charge via written correspondence and provided submissions for the Stewards consideration as to the matter of penalty.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

- * 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 John McMullen and his good record under this rule,
- * Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- * The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

Stewards imposed a fine of \$6000. Stewards further directed under the provisions of AHR rule 256(5)(a) that \$2000 of this fine be suspended for 2 years on the basis Mr McMullen does not breach any rule in part 12 of the AHR rules.

Acting under AHR rule 195, Studleigh Mark was disqualified from its performance at Albion Park on 4 October 2024 and all remaining placings adjusted accordingly.

John McMullen was advised of his right to appeal the decision to the Racing Appeals Panel.