

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Mark Rees

**Date: 19 December 2024**

**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 Dexamethasone had been detected in a sample taken from the Mark Rees-trained mare Kelloshiel following its winning performance at Marburg on 22 October 2024.

Stewards commenced inquiries on 18 November 2024 and on 2 December 2024 Mr Rees 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 Mark Rees, as the trainer of Kelloshiel, did present that mare to race at Marburg on 22 October 2024 when a post-race urine sample taken from that horse, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Dexamethasone.*

On 16 December 2024, Mr Rees 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 Mark Rees 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 Rees does not breach any rule in part 12 of the AHR rules.

Acting under AHR rule 195, Kelloshiel was disqualified from its winning performance at Marburg on 22 October 2024 and all remaining placings will be adjusted accordingly.

Mark Rees was advised of his right to appeal the decision to the Racing Appeals Panel.