

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Ronald Ryan (Track Rider)

Date: 11 January 2025

Panel: P. Gillard, A. Holzhauser

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today inquired into the alleged race-day treatment of FIVE BULLS which was accepted to race at Ladbrokes Cannon Park on Saturday 24 August 2024.

A report was received by race-day Stewards from QRIC CAT Stewards who were conducting stable inspections of runners on the day that FIVE BULLS had been treated with medication the morning of the race meeting. As such FIVE BULLS was scratched from its pending engagement on the day under the provisions of AR 249 Administration of medication on race day - (3) The Stewards may order that a horse which has received a medication in breach of subrule (1) be scratched from a race engagement. After hearing all evidence and satisfied Mr Ryan had acted on his own accord in treating FIVE BULLS stewards issued a charge against Mr Ryan.

Charge: AR 249 (1)(a) – AR 249 Administration of medication on race day

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions set out in Schedule 1, Part 2, Division 2, a person must not, without the permission of the Stewards: (a) administer; any medication to a horse at any time on race day prior to the commencement of a race in which the horse is engaged to race.

The details of the charge being that licensed track rider Mr Ronald Ryan, breached AR 249 (1)(a) by reason of the following particulars:

1. He did treat FIVE BULLS with Boost Paste on the morning of 24 August 2024, which was accepted to race at Ladbrokes Cannon Park Saturday 24 August 2024.
2. Under the provisions of AR 249 Administration of medication on race day which is not permitted.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty

When considering penalty, the Stewards, while acknowledging the penalty provision of a minimum 6-month disqualification contained within AR249(2), found that special circumstances, pursuant to LR117(b) did exist in this matter and that the penalty imposed should reflect such circumstances. These special circumstances being.

- Mr Ryan's co-operation with Stewards throughout the currency of this matter.
- A guilty plea entered at an early stage.
- That the substance involved was insignificant in nature.
- That the treatment was solely made for the purpose of horse welfare.
- That the Stewards accepted that Mr Ryan was unaware of his responsibilities under the rules relating to such matters.

In addition the Stewards found that other relevant circumstances existed whereby the penalty imposed best reflected both the seriousness of the breach and Mr Ryan's personal circumstances.

These circumstances including

- Honesty and forthright evidence provided.
- Treatment book provided and up to date.
- Long service to the industry.
- Genuine remorse displayed for this breach of the rules.
- First breach under this rule.
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the Thoroughbred racing industry.

Having factored all relevant considerations Mr Ryan was fined the sum of \$5,000.00 with 50% to be stayed for a period of 2 years pending no further breaches of any prohibited substance rule.

Mr Ryan was advised of his right to an appeal.