

Stewards Report

Stewards Report: Trainer Leigh-Ann Derecourt

Date: 20 February 2025

Panel: Clayton Warren & Sharon Coulthard

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance TAPENTADOL was detected in a urine sample collected from JEDIAH at Toowoomba on 26 October, 2024.

Documentary evidence being tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL), along with evidence from Licensed Trainer Ms Leigh-Ann Derecourt and Stablehand Mr Mark Spring.

After considering all of the evidence Stewards issued Ms Derecourt with a charge pursuant to AR240(2) which reads:

Subject to subrule (3), if a horse has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in any sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.

The specifics of the charge being that as the licensed Trainer of JEDIAH, Ms Leigh-Ann Derecourt did have that gelding presented to race at the Toowoomba Turf Club on the 26 October 2024 whereby after a winning performance in Race 5 the MILES ACCOMODATION SERVICES MAIDEN HANDICAP over 1200m a post-race urine sample was collected and upon subsequent referee analysis was confirmed to contain the prohibited TAPENTADOL.

Ms Derecourt pleaded guilty to the charge and made brief submissions in relation to penalty.

In determining penalty Stewards gave consideration to the following:

- Seriousness of a breach of AR240(2)
 - Negative impact on image of industry
 - Relevant Precedent
 - Guilty plea
 - Disciplinary history
 - Penalty submissions
 - Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)
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- Racing Integrity Act 2016 (Qld)
- Level of culpability & Blameworthiness; noting the likely cause of contamination was identified
- General & Specific deterrence

Ms Derecourt was subsequently issued with a monetary penalty of \$4000. Additionally, under the provisions of AR283(5), \$1000 of that penalty was wholly suspended for a period of 12months under the proviso that Ms Derecourt does not breach AR240(2) again in that time.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of AR240(1), Stewards disqualified JEDIAH from winning the MILES ACCOMODATION SERVICES MAIDEN HANDICAP over 1200m and amended the placing as follows:

1st – KINROSS LANE

2nd – WEATHER

3rd – DANNY'S BOY

4th – THE BIGBANG THEORY

Ms Derecourt was advised of her right to an appeal.