

# Stewards' Report

**Stewards Report: Nicole Hanrahan**

**Date: 28 May 2025**

**Panel: N. Torpey, M. Greentree & L. Bahr**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into the 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 samples taken from the Nicole Hanrahan trained horse Crossed Legs following its performance at Marburg on 19 November 2024, 1 December 2024 and 8 December 2024.

Stewards on 30 January 2025 Nicole Hanrahan was issued with three(3) charges 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:

**Charge 1:**

Nicole Hanrahan as the trainer of the horse Crossed Legs, did present the horse to race at Marburg on 19 November 2024, when a urine sample taken from Crossed Legs, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Cobalt above the permitted threshold.

**Charge 2:**

Nicole Hanrahan as the trainer of the horse Crossed Legs, did present the horse to race at Marburg on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024, when a urine sample taken from Crossed Legs, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Cobalt above the permitted threshold.

**Charge 3:**

Nicole Hanrahan as the trainer of the horse Crossed Legs, did present the horse to race at Marburg on 8th December 2024, when a urine sample taken from Crossed Legs, upon analysis, was found to contain a prohibited substance, namely Cobalt above the permitted threshold.

Ms Hanrahan entered a plea of not guilty to the three(3) charge under AHR rule 190(1) via written correspondence and provided further submissions.

On 26 April 2025, after careful consideration of the submission by Ms Hanrahan, Stewards found the evidence supportive of a guilty finding under AHR rule 190(1) against Ms Hanrahan regarding the three (3) charges.

In considering the matter it is noted that industry notices have been distributed warning participants of the need to consult with their veterinarians to ensure that the amount of cobalt necessary for the nutritional requirements of the horse does not exceed the permitted level and that there is an obligation placed on participants to appraise themselves of the content of all publications issued by the relevant control bodies and act in accordance with them.

Stewards decided on the matter of penalty and considered:

- \* Ms Hanrahan's participation in the industry extends over a long period of time and the fact such history has been earned in circumstances where her participation has been on a part-time basis as a factor which had some weight to be attached to as a mitigating factor
- \* AHR Rule 190 (1) is a strict liability rule with the onus on the trainer to present a horse drug free for racing,
- \* The personal circumstances of Ms Hanrahan;
- \* Penalty precedents for matters of this type,
- \* The need for any penalty to serve as a deterrent both general and specific.

**Penalty:**

Charge 1:

- Ms Hanrahan was fined the sum of \$6,000

Charge 2:

- Ms Hanrahan was fined the sum of \$6,000 and her licence to train was suspended for a period of 12 months.

Charge 3:

- Ms Hanrahan was fined the sum of \$6,000 and her licence to train was suspended for a period of 12 months.

Further Stewards order that the penalties stemming from charges 2 and 3 be suspended for a period of two (2) years on the provision that Ms Hanrahan is not found in breach of any matters relating to prohibited substances within that period.

Stewards also determined that Crossed Legs be disqualified from its respective races at Marburg on 19 November 2024, 1 December 2024 and 8 December 2024 under the provisions of AHR 195 and all remaining placings be adjusted accordingly.

Ms Hanrahan was informed of her rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeals Panel.

*Ends*