

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Nicholas Walsh

Date: 27 May 2025

Panel: Hayden Gillett, Shane Larkins, Ethan Suli, Shikira Stehbens & Zoe Lines

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst findings that the prohibited substances Dexamethasone and Furosemide were detected in a blood sample collected from the horse PENMAN, after it competed in trial four (4) at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on 17 March 2025.

Submissions were made by Nicholas Walsh, trainer of PENMAN at the relevant time.

After considering the evidence in its entirety the following charge was issued against Mr Walsh.

AR 241 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at trial etc

If a horse is brought to a racecourse or recognised training track to participate in:

(a) an official trial;

and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following the relevant event, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

The specifics of the charge were as follows;

Mr Nicholas Walsh, as the trainer and person in charge of the thoroughbred PENMAN at the relevant time before and after it competed in trial four (4) at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on 17 March 2025 and the substances Dexamethasone and Furosemide being detected by Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Ltd, he did breach these Australian Rules by presenting the horse when not free of prohibited substances.

Mr Walsh pleaded guilty to the charge.

When assessing penalty stewards considered the following factors.

- Mr Walsh's immediate plea of guilty to the charge;
- Mr Walsh's full cooperation throughout the investigation and inquiry process;
- Mr Walsh's time in the thoroughbred racing industry as a trainer, being approximately five and a half (5 1/2) years;
- Mr Walsh's disciplinary history, noting he has had one (1) prior breach under the Prohibited Substances Rules in relation to the presentation of horses at trials in just over 5 years of training;

- PENMAN was not presented for the purposes of obtaining a clearance to race;
- Mr Walsh's treatment records accurately reflected the time and date of the administration of the substances;
- The current number of horses currently in training under Mr Walsh's care and custody, being sixteen (16) horses;
- The current number of staff that Mr Walsh employs;
- Mr Walsh's personal circumstances.
- The nature of the prohibited substances, Dexamethosone and Furosemide, being classified as Prohibited List B substances;
- The need to maintain the integrity of thoroughbred racing industry and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- The need for both specific deterrence to Mr Walsh and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- The need for the general public to maintain confidence in the integrity control of the thoroughbred racing industry;
- Relevant penalty precedents of similar categorised substances;
- The Human Rights Act 2019;

The following penalty was imposed against Mr Walsh;

AR 241(a) Prohibited substance present in a trial day sample – Fined \$3000

Mr Walsh was advised of his rights to appeal.