

Stewards Report

Stewards Report: Trainer Nick Keal

Date: 1 May 2025

Panel: Clayton Warren, Tony Preston & Emily Tickner

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report from the analyst that the prohibited substance Lignocaine was detected in a urine sample collected from RADEGAST at the Gold Coast on 15 February 2025.

Documentary evidence being tabled from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) and Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL), along with evidence from Licensed Trainer Mr Nick Keal.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued Mr Keal 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 on 15 February 2025, Mr Nick Keal, as the trainer of RADEGAST, did have that thoroughbred brought to the Gold Coast Racecourse for the purpose of participating in Race 4, the RPG Australia Social Club Benchmark 62 Handicap over 2230m, where a pre-race blood sample taken from the gelding prior to its running on that date, upon analysis, was found to contain Lignocaine; a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing pursuant to Division 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 (Prohibited List B) as a substance that falls within the anaesthetic agent category in breach of AR 240(2).

Mr Keal pleaded guilty to the charge and made brief submissions in relation to penalty.

In determining penalty Stewards considered the following:

- Seriousness of a breach of AR240(2)
 - Negative impact on image of industry
 - Relevant Precedent
 - Guilty plea
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- Disciplinary history; noting this was Mr Keal's first breach of any prohibited substance rule
- Penalty submissions
- Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)
- Racing Integrity Act 2016 (Qld)
- Level of culpability & Blameworthiness
- General & Specific deterrence

Mr Keal was subsequently issued with a monetary penalty of \$4,000. Additionally, under the provisions of AR283(5), \$1,500 of that penalty was wholly suspended for a period of 24 months, on the condition that Mr Keal does not breach AR240(2), or any similar rule, within the operative period of the suspended suspension that being 1 May 2025 up to and including 1 May 2027.

Furthermore, acting under the provisions of AR240(1), Stewards disqualified RADEGAST from the RPG Australia Social Club Benchmark 62 Handicap over 2230m and amended the placings accordingly.

Mr Keal was advised of his right to an appeal.