

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Thomas Smith – Scrub Chain

Date: 30th April 2025

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

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Cobalt was detected in a post-race blood sample collected from the horse SCRUB CHAIN, when it competed and won Race 7 – CAPRICORNIA YEARLING SALE QTIS JEWEL QUALIFIER 3YO PLATE 1100M, at the Rockhampton Jockey Club meeting held on the 14th February 2025.

Submissions were made by Thomas Smith, trainer of SCRUB CHAIN at the inquiry.

After considering the evidence in its entirety, the following charge was issued against Mr Smith:

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

AR 240 Prohibited substance in a sample taken from horse at race meeting

(2) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is 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 a 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 the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

The particulars of the charge being, on 14th February 2025, Mr Thomas Smith, as the trainer of the horse SCRUB CHAIN at all relevant times, presented that horse to the Rockhampton Jockey Club for the purpose of participating in Race 7, the Capricorn Yearlings Sales QTIS Jewel Qualifier 3yo Plate over 1100m, where a post-race blood sample collected from SCRUB CHAIN, upon analysis by the Racing Science Centre and Racing Analytical Services Limited, was found to contain Cobalt at a level above the permitted threshold as defined in the Australian Rules of Racing, Division 3 Part 11 – Prohibited List B Thresholds.

Mr Smith pleaded guilty to the charge.

When assessing penalty stewards considered the following factors.

- Mr Smith's guilty plea

- Mr Smith's previous record in relation to the rule which indicated no prior breaches under the prohibited substances rules.
- Mr Smith's personal circumstances
- Human Rights Act 2019
- The need for the penalty to serve as both a specific and general deterrence
- The need to recognise the impact these breaches have on the image of thoroughbred racing
- Penalty precedents under this rule for cobalt breaches

Mr Smith's licence to train was suspended for a period of 12 months, which under the provisions of AR283(5), was wholly suspended for a period of two years from today's date, on the proviso that Mr Smith does not reoffend under this rule regarding the substance Cobalt. Mr Smith was also fined \$5000. Stewards deemed the suspended sentence and monetary fine to be consistent with previous precedents in relation to this rule and the substance Cobalt.

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(1) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse 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 its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.

After considering that no submissions were made by connections or trainer Thomas Smith in relation to AR240(1), stewards invoked the provisions of the rule and therefore SCRUB CHAIN was disqualified from Race 7 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on the 14th February 2025.

The placings were amended as follows:

- 1st POWER OF KATIE
- 2nd KAI MONDO
- 3rd RUN AWAY RENEE
- 4th BETTER THAN WORDS

Mr Smith was advised of his rights of appeal.