

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Jimmy Downes

Date: 10th June 2025

Panel: Danielle McMahon, Brett Wright & Piper Gore (Cadet)

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today inquired into a report from the RSC Analyst that the prohibited substance CLENBUTEROL was detected in the blood sample taken from INFLUENTIAL, prior to its winning performance at Doomben on 8th February 2025.

After considering the evidence, Trainer J. Downes was issued a charge pursuant to AR 240(2) which states:

(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.

On the 8th February 2025, Mr Jimmy Downes, as the trainer of INFLUENTIAL, brought the thoroughbred gelding to the Doomben Racecourse for the purpose of participating in Race 8, the MAGIC MILLIONS GOLD COAST MARCH No Metro Wins Handicap over 1350m, where a pre-race blood sample taken from INFLUENTIAL, upon analysis, was found to contain Clenbuterol; a substance prohibited under the Australian Rules of Racing pursuant to Division 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 (Prohibited List B) due to its effects on the respiratory system in breach of AR 240(2).

Trainer J. Downes pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$2000.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered Mr Downes' guilty plea, record in relation to this rule, history in the industry, his cooperation leading up to and throughout the inquiry, precedents for offences pursuant to AR240(2) in regard to the substance, changes to be effected in stable practices and the need for the penalty to act as a specific and general deterrent to the wider racing industry.

Mr Downes was advised of his appeal rights.

Stewards took submissions in relation to AR240(1) from Trainer J. Downes, as well as managing owner, Mr Noel Walker, who was in attendance. After considering these submissions, under the provisions of AR240(1), disqualified INFLUENTIAL from its first placing in the above-mentioned race and amended the placings as follows:

1st – IMATRUESTAR

2nd – SHIHAB

3rd – TAKE A PICTURE

4th – DEMON DARB

5th – NORTH OF ELI