

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Lyle Wright and Robert Davie

Date: 18th August 2025

Panel: Shane Larkins, Ethan Suli & Hayden Gillett

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the circumstances of the Lyle Wright trained horse OBLIGATED being presented to race in race 4, the GBA CONSULTING ENGINEERS BENCHMARK 70 HANDICAP 1100 metres at the Rockhampton Jockey Club meeting on 22 May 2025 and being subsequently scratched by stewards prior to racing.

Submissions were made by licensed trainer Lyle Wright and licenced track work rider Robert Davie.

After considering the evidence in its entirety, which disclosed that track work rider Robert Davie was left in charge of OBLIGATED at approximately 7.30am on the day in question due to trainer Lyle Wright having to attend hospital for a medical appointment. It was further established that Mr Davie had taken it upon himself to obtain Sed-Ace, which he kept on hand for use when breaking horses in, without the knowledge of trainer Lyle Wright and take it to the race meeting with the intention of administering it to 14 year old retired racehorse, TAMBO'S HEART, the travelling companion of OBLIGATED, to ensure that horse behaved in a desirable manner that would allow his full focus to be concentrated on OBLIGATED. The admission of Mr Davie that he inadvertently administered Sed-Ace to OBLIGATED instead of the travel companion horse was also considered when issuing the following charges and the fact that upon identifying the error he had immediately alerted stewards and made full and frank admissions.

Lyle Wright

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

AR 240 Prohibited substance in 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 specifics of the charge were as follows:

1: You, Mr Lyle Wright, are, and were at all relevant times, a thoroughbred trainer licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

2: You were, at all relevant times, the licensed trainer of the registered thoroughbred OBLIGATED.

3: On 22 May 2025, OBLIGATED was brought to the Rockhampton Jockey Club for the purpose of competing in Race 4, the GBA CONSULTING ENGINEERS BENCHMARK 70 HANDICAP 1100 metres.

4: Upon analysis by the Racing Science Centre, Brisbane, a urine sample collected from OBLIGATED, after it was declared a late scratching by stewards, was reported to contain the substance 2-(Hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide and this finding was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, Melbourne.

5: 2-(Hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide is a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing, **SCHEDULE 1 – PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES LISTS & EXEMPTIONS/THRESHOLDS, PART 2 – SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED ON RACE DAYS, CERTAIN TRIALS ETC Division 1 – Prohibited List B, 2. Substances** within, but not limited to, the following categories: (ddd) sedatives;

Plea – No Guilty

Finding – Guilty

Robert Davie

Charge 1

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

AR 240 Prohibited substance in 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 specifics of the charge were as follows:

1: You, Mr Robert Davie, are, and were at all relevant times, a track work rider licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

2: You were, at all relevant times on 22 May 2025, a person in charge of the registered thoroughbred OBLIGATED.

3: On 22 May 2025, OBLIGATED was brought to the Rockhampton Jockey Club, by you, for the purpose of competing in Race 4, the GBA CONSULTING ENGINEERS BENCHMARK 70 HANDICAP 1100 metres.

4: Upon arrival at the Rockhampton racecourse, you did administer the substance Sed-Ace paste to the horse OBLIGATED in the float carpark.

5: Upon analysis by the Racing Science Centre, Brisbane, a urine sample collected from OBLIGATED, after it was declared a late scratching by stewards, was reported to contain the substance 2-(Hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide and this finding was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, Melbourne.

5: 2-(Hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide is a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing, **SCHEDULE 1 – PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES LISTS & EXEMPTIONS/THRESHOLDS, PART 2 – SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED ON RACE DAYS, CERTAIN TRIALS ETC Division 1 – Prohibited List B, 2. Substances** within, but not limited to, the following categories: (ddd) sedatives;

Plea – Guilty

Charge 2

AR 245 Administration of prohibited substance in sample taken from horse before/after running in race

(1) A person must not:

(a) administer; or

(b) cause to be administered,

a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B to a horse which is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following the running of a race.

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

1: You, Mr Robert Davie, are, and were at all relevant times, a track work rider licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

2: You were, at all relevant times on 22 May 2025, a person in charge of the registered thoroughbred OBLIGATED.

3: On 22 May 2025, OBLIGATED was brought to the Rockhampton Jockey Club, by you, for the purpose of competing in Race 4, the GBA CONSULTING ENGINEERS BENCHMARK 70 HANDICAP 1100 metres.

4: Upon arrival at the Rockhampton racecourse, you did administer the substance Sed-Ace paste to the horse OBLIGATED in the float carpark.

5: Upon analysis by the Racing Science Centre, Brisbane, a urine sample collected from OBLIGATED, after it was declared a late scratching by stewards, was reported to contain the substance 2-(Hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide and this finding was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, Melbourne.

5: 2-(Hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide is a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing, **SCHEDULE 1 – PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES LISTS & EXEMPTIONS/THRESHOLDS, PART 2 – SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED ON RACE DAYS, CERTAIN TRIALS ETC Division 1 – Prohibited List B, 2. Substances** within, but not limited to, the following categories: (ddd) sedatives;

Plea - Guilty

Charge 3

AR 251 Possession of a prohibited substance/equipment at race meeting

(1) A person must not, without the written permission of the Stewards, have in his or her possession:

- (a) on a racecourse where a race meeting is being conducted; or
- (b) in any motor vehicle, horse float or other mode of transport used for the purpose of transporting a horse/s to and/or from a race meeting, any prohibited substance, or a syringe, needle, naso-gastric tube or other instrument that could be used:
 - (i) to administer a prohibited substance to a horse; or
 - (ii) to produce a prohibited substance in a horse.

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

1: You, Mr Robert Davie, are, and were at all relevant times, a track work rider licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

2: You were, at all relevant times on 22 May 2025, a person in charge of the registered thoroughbred OBLIGATED.

3: On 22 May 2025, OBLIGATED was brought to the Rockhampton Jockey Club, by you, for the purpose of competing in Race 4, the GBA CONSULTING ENGINEERS BENCHMARK 70 HANDICAP 1100 metres.

4: You did, without the written permission of stewards, have in your possession a prohibited substance, on a racecourse where a race meeting was being conducted, namely Sed-Ace.

6: You, did, without the permission of stewards, have in your possession, in the motor vehicle used for the purpose of transporting OBLIGATED to the Rockhampton race meeting on 22 May 2025, a prohibited substance, namely Sed-Ace.

7: You did, without the permission of stewards, have in your possession a syringe that could be used to administer a prohibited substance.

Plea - Guilty

When assessing penalty for Mr Wright, stewards considered the following factors.

- Mr Wright's not guilty plea to the charge;
- Mr Wright's full cooperation throughout the investigation and inquiry process;
- Mr Wright's time in the thoroughbred racing industry as a trainer, being more than fifty (50) years;
- Mr Wright's disciplinary history, noting he has had no prior breaches under AR240(2) of the Prohibited Substances Rules;
- The need for both specific deterrence to Mr Wright 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;
- The Human Rights Act 2019;
- The strict liability nature of the rule;
- Stewards were satisfied to the requisite standard that the degree of culpability attributable to Mr Wright was negated due to him not having any direct involvement or knowledge of the circumstances that lead to the rule breach, nor did have any part to play;

Penalty – Conviction recorded, no penalty imposed.

When assessing penalties for Mr Davie, stewards considered the following factors.

- Mr Davie's immediate plea of guilty to the charges;
- Mr Davie's full cooperation throughout the investigation and inquiry process;

- Mr Davie's time in the thoroughbred racing industry as a license holder, being more than thirteen (13) years;
- Mr Davie's disciplinary history, noting he has had no prior breaches of any Australian Rules of Racing;
- The need for both specific deterrence to Mr Davie 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;
- The Human Rights Act 2019;
- The strict liability nature of the rules;
- Stewards took into account that the horse, OBLIGATED, did not contest the race for which it was presented;
- Stewards were also mindful of the considerable remorse displayed and admissions that the conduct was completely of his own doing;

Penalties

Charge 1 AR240(2) Presentation – Fined \$1000

Charge 2 AR245(1)(a) – Administration – 3 months suspension of license wholly suspended for 2 years, conditional on no breaches of any of the prohibited substance related rules. Fined \$1000

Charge 3 AR251(b)(i) – Possession on course – Fined \$500

Both Mr Wright and Davie were advised of their rights of appeal.