

DECISION

Of

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards

Regarding

Mr Lyle Wright

Delivered on: 12 November 2025

Date of hearing: 12 November 2025

Panel: Mr Hayden Gillett (Chair), Mr Shane Larkins, Mr Ethan Suli and Mr Gary Wust

Charge 1: AR 240(2)

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.

Particulars of Charge:

- 1: Mr Lyle Wright, is, and was at all relevant times, a thoroughbred trainer licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.
- 2: Mr Wright was, at all relevant times, the licensed trainer of the registered thoroughbred THORMENDOUS MISS.
- 3: On 4 September 2025, THORMENDOUS MISS was brought to the Mackay Turf Club for the purpose of competing in Race 8, the Racing Again Friday 12th September Class 6 Plate 1300m metres.

4: Upon analysis by the Racing Science Centre, Brisbane, a post-race urine sample collected from THORMENDOUS MISS, after it competed in and won race 8 on 4 September 2025 at the Mackay Turf Club meeting, was reported to contain the substance Tapentadol and this finding was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, Melbourne.

5: Tapentadol is a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing, pursuant to:

- **SCHEDULE 1 – PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES LISTS & EXEMPTIONS/THRESHOLDS, PART 1 – SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES**, *The substances set out below in this Division 1 are specified as prohibited substances. (24). Substances listed in Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons contained in the Australian Poisons Standard.*
- **Division 1 – Prohibited List A PART 2 – SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED ON RACE DAYS, CERTAIN TRIALS ETC Division 1 – Prohibited List B**, *Substances capable at any time of causing either directly or indirectly an action and/or effect within one or more of the following mammalian body systems: (a) the nervous system, (b) the cardiovascular system and (c) the respiratory system. Substances within, but not limited to, the following categories: (j) analgesics;*

Plea: Not Guilty

Background and Submissions:

Mr Wright presented THORMENDOUS MISS to race at the Mackay race meeting on 4 September 2025 and a post-race urine sample collected from the mare, upon analysis was reported to contain the presence of Tapentadol as advised by Racing Science Centre, Brisbane and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, Melbourne.

Mr Wright provided accurate and up to date treatment records for horses within his care.

Mr Wright denied any knowledge of the substance Tapentadol or any such administration.

Mr Wright provided information regarding prescription medicines that he and his staff were taking at or around 4 September 2025.

Mr Wright was unable to explain the presence of Tapentadol in THORMENDOUS MISS' system on the day in question, other than potential outside influence beyond his control.

Stewards findings;

The evidence failed to identify any likely outside influence that resulted in Tapentadol being present in the sample collected from THORMENDOUS MISS on 4 September 2025.

Stewards were satisfied to the requisite standard that Mr Wright was at all relevant times the trainer and person responsible for the care and control, of THORMENDOUS MISS and the mare was presented by him to race at the Mackay Turf Club race meeting on 4 September 2025.

Stewards were satisfied that the two Certificates of Analysis from separate laboratories, together, provided the evidentiary value of prima facie evidence that Tapentadol was present in the sample taken from THORMENDOUS MISS on 4 September, as per the provisions set out in AR 259(6)(b)

Penalty Submissions:

Mr Wright submitted that he has been licensed as a trainer for approximately 50 years and is reliant on the racing industry to earn a living.

Mr Wright advised that he currently has 6 horses listed under his care and employs 2 staff members.

Mr Wright requested that his good standing in the racing industry overall be considered in his favour.

Mr Wright submitted that his personal circumstances be considered.

Stewards' findings on Penalty:

The Stewards acknowledged that Mr Wright pleaded not guilty to the charge and therefore was not afforded any penalty dispensation on that basis.

Mr Wright's cooperation throughout the inquiry, the documented treatment records and his time in the racing industry of approximately 50 years, with one prior breach of the prohibited substance rules where he was exonerated fully of any wrongdoing and no penalty was imposed, were considered favourable towards him. The Stewards also considered Mr Wright's personal circumstances, and the impact different penalty types may have on him. Stewards considered the seriousness of prohibited substance rule breaches, and that any penalty imposed must serve as an appropriate deterrent specifically to Mr Wright, but also to the wider thoroughbred racing industry. The Stewards also considered the need to maintain the integrity of thoroughbred racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants. Further, the need to safeguard the welfare of horses that are involved in racing.

Stewards gave consideration to the degree of culpability to be apportioned to Mr Wright on the basis of the determination of the matter of *Wallace v Queensland Racing* [2007] QDC 168 and the categorisation of this type of offence. Due to no factually supported explanation being provided, stewards were of the view that the conduct offending of Mr Wright fell within the second-tier category.

The Stewards considered penalty precedents for similar prohibited substance matters involving the same substance in Queensland racing, namely a penalty issued against trainer Leigh-Ann Derecourt in February 2025, where a penalty of \$4000 was imposed by stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and the Queensland Harness racing matter of Colin Godden in October 2023, where a \$5000 fine was imposed.

Human Rights:

Consideration was properly given to Mr Wright's human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr Wright may limit his rights to property. The Stewards also considered purpose of the imposition of a monetary penalty upon a person for breaching a rule of racing is to:

- maintain public confidence in the racing of animals in Queensland for which betting is lawful;
- ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing or betting under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 or the Racing Act 2002;
- safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 or the Racing Act 2002.

Having regard to the other less restrictive penalties, it is considered that a caution or reprimand is not sufficient disciplinary options that enforce compliance and achieve the purposes outlined above. The sanction of a monetary penalty serves as a personal and general deterrent, encouraging all participants to comply with the rules of racing and promote drug free racing.

The stewards also considered that a penalty imposed on a participant is not designed to punish a license holder, but to act as a deterrent for the person specifically as well as the wider industry in general.

The Stewards therefore consider that any limitation imposed upon the licensee's right to property caused by the imposition of a monetary penalty outlined in the rules of racing, is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 and the fundamental purpose of the disciplinary system.

Penalty Decision:

Charge 1: Fined \$4000

Horse Disqualification:

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.

As managing owner of THORMENDOUS MISS, Mr Saverio Catanzariti was given the opportunity to address the stewards panel in relation to invoking the provisions of the rule and after considering the evidence adduced during the inquiry and submissions made, stewards determined that THORMENDOUS MISS be disqualified from 1ST place from, Race 8, the Racing Again Friday 12th September Class 6 Plate 1300 metres conducted at the Mackay Turf Club 04 September 2025 and the placings amended as follows;

1st – LADY MASQUERADE
2ND – DIVINE PURPOSE
3RD – PEPPERDINE
4TH – DANCE FOR ME RANDY

Appeal Rights:

Mr Wright was advised of his right to appeal the decision of the Stewards to the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.