



TRNT Stewards Report – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

Panel: D Hensler, R Hamilton, S Copelin

Venue: Darwin Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the analyst's findings that the urine sample taken from IMA PUPPET after competing and winning at the Darwin Turf Club race meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021, contained the presence of the prohibited substance trenbolone and the metabolites trendione and epitrenbolone. Altrenogest was also detected in the sample.

The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) issued a first certificate for this finding and the confirmation analysis was performed and the second certificate was issued by the Racing Science Centre (QRIC). Evidence was tendered by trainer Mr Garry Lefoe, RWWA Racing Industry veterinarian Dr J Medd and ARFL Science Manager Dr A Cawley.

The inquiry established the following.

1. In June 2018 TRNT distributed warnings to the NT racing industry issued by RVL and Racing NSW that certain altrenogest products had been found to contain low levels of trenbolone and/or trendione and specific precautions were recommended to trainers. Mr Lefoe was aware of these warnings. This was the first detection of this substance in a sample from a thoroughbred in the Northern Territory since the warnings were published.
2. During a stable inspection conducted on 15 April, 2021, Stewards took possession of 2 bottles of a compounded product labelled "altrenogest in soybean oil" which was prescribed by a veterinarian. Samples of these 2 oil products were analysed by the ARFL and found to contain differing levels of trenbolone and trendione.
3. During the stable inspection Mr Lefoe provided detailed treatment records for IMA PUPPET which confirmed that he had been administering the product orally but not in accordance with the recommendations provided in the June 2018 warnings.
4. The Stewards were satisfied after considering the veterinary and scientific evidence that the administration of this altrenogest product was the likely cause of the prohibited substance detection.

Stewards gave careful consideration to which of the prohibited substance Rules of Racing should be applied given the circumstances of the matter and in particular that the detected substance is an anabolic androgenic steroid.

Subsequently Mr Lefoe pleaded guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) with the specifics being that as the trainer of IMA PUPPET he did bring that mare to the Darwin Turf Club race meeting held at Fannie Bay Racecourse on 19th February, 2021 for the purpose of engaging in race 3, the bet365 0-58 Handicap (1200m) with the prohibited list A and B substance trenbolone and the metabolites trendione and epitrendione being detected in the post race urine sample taken from the mare.

In consideration of a penalty Stewards took into account the following factors:

- The nature of the substance and the metabolites
- High detected level of the metabolite trendione
- Guilty plea
- Co operation during the stable inspection and subsequent inquiry
- Detailed recording of treatments which assisted the proceedings
- No evidence of any dishonest motive
- An acceptance of wrongdoing and demonstrated genuine remorse
- Personal and professional circumstances
- Good record over 8 years of training
- Long overall involvement as a licensed participant in the racing industry and a contributing member of the Northern Territory racing community
- Penalty precedents in the NT and nationally

Mr Lefoe was disqualified for a period of 6 months and informed of his appeal rights.

He was advised that the Stewards would defer the commencement of the period of disqualification for 7 clear days in accordance with AR283(7) to allow him to make appropriate arrangements. Thoroughbreds currently under his care can continue to be trained during this deferment period but cannot start in a race.

**Acting under the provisions of AR240(1), the Stewards disqualified IMA PUPPET from first placing in race 3 on 19th February, 2021 and the results are amended accordingly.**

The detection of an anabolic androgenic steroid in the sample taken from IMA PUPPET enacts the provisions of AR248(4) and therefore the mare is not permitted to start in any race from the 19 February, 2021 for a period of 12 months and only after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate is provided to the Stewards.

As the trainer and majority shareholder of the mare, Mr Lefoe was afforded the opportunity to provide a submission to the Stewards in relation to the provisions of AR248(4)(a) and how that impacts on the subsequent race start and win of IMA PUPPET in race 1 the Pot of Gold 0-58 Handicap (1300m) at the Darwin Turf Club meeting of 13 March, 2021.

**After due consideration, the Stewards determined, given the application of AR248(4) that IMA PUPPET was ineligible to run in the race on the 13 March, 2021 and therefore under the provisions of AR53(3)(a) the mare was disqualified from first placing in that event and the results are amended accordingly.**

Australian Rules of Racing referred to in this report.

***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.*

*(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.*

**AR 248 Administration of anabolic androgenic steroids**

*(4) If a sample taken at any time from a horse has detected in it an anabolic androgenic steroid, the horse is not permitted to start in any race, official trial or jump-out:*

*(a) for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of the collection of the sample; and*

*(b) until after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate is provided in respect of a sample taken from the horse on a date directed by a PRA or the Stewards.*

**AR 53 Horses can only run in races they are qualified to run in**

*(3) If a horse runs in a race:*

*(a) it is ineligible for, it may be disqualified;*

**AR 283 Penalties**

*(1) Subject to subrule (3), a person or body authorised by the Rules to penalise any person may, unless the contrary is provided, impose:*

*(a) a disqualification;*

*(b) a suspension;*

*(c) a reprimand; or*

*(d) a fine not exceeding \$100,000.*

*(7) A person or body authorised by these Australian Rules to suspend or disqualify any trainer may defer the commencement of the period of suspension or disqualification for no more than 7 clear days following the day the suspension or disqualification was imposed, and upon terms and conditions considered fit.*