



TRNT Stewards Report – Tuesday 31 August, 2021

Panel: D Hensler, D Westover, M Hurley

Venue: Alice Springs Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings that the urine sample taken from ARROGANT MISS after competing and winning at the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting on 27 March 2021, contained the presence of the prohibited substances trendione and epitrenbolone. These substances are anabolic androgenic steroids. The therapeutic substance 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 Russell Bell, RWWA Manager of Veterinary Services Dr J Medd and ARFL Science Manager Dr A Cawley.

The inquiry established the following.

1. A bottle of the S4 veterinary prescribed product Ovumate was located in Mr Bell's stables at an inspection on 6 June, 2021 and ARFL analysis of a sample of this product detected the presence of trendione. Mr Bell maintained that he had not used this product on any thoroughbred in his stable in the previous 12 months.
2. 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 Bell was aware of these warnings. This was the second detection of this type of substance in a sample from a thoroughbred in the Northern Territory since the warnings were published.
3. Mr Bell asserted at the inquiry that the reason for the positive swab was the result of the mare having ingested Ovumate as an aftereffect of a poor stable practice that he had identified after being notified of the sample result. On the evidence put forward at the inquiry the Stewards could make no definitive determination on this assertion.
4. As the estimated detected levels of trendione and epitrenbolone were in the low range and given that altrenogest was also detected in the urine sample, the Stewards were satisfied on the balance of probabilities, considering the veterinary and scientific evidence, that the positive finding was the result of the mare having orally ingested Ovumate.

Subsequently Mr Bell pleaded guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) with the specifics being that as the trainer of ARROGANT MISS he did bring that mare to the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting held at Pioneer Park Racecourse on 27th March, 2021 for the purpose of engaging in race 4, the Benchmark Handicap (1100m) with the prohibited list A and B substances trendione and epitrenbolone being detected in the post race urine sample taken from the mare.

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

- The nature of the prohibited list A and B substances
- The low detected levels
- Guilty plea
- Co-operation during the stable inspection and subsequent inquiry
- No evidence of any dishonest motive
- An acceptance of strict liability as a trainer to present horses to race drug free
- Personal and professional circumstances
- Disciplinary record, with previous positive swab breaches in 2013 and 2018
- Overall record as a trainer for 28 years
- Positive swab penalty precedents in the NT and nationally
- Penalties that can be imposed under AR283
- Recent NTRAT decision involving anabolic analgesic substances
- Penalties must serve as a general and specific deterrent

Mr Bell was fined the sum of \$12,000. He was advised of his right of appeal and that the fine must be paid within 6 months.

Acting under the provisions of AR240(1), the Stewards disqualified ARROGANT MISS from first placing in race 4 on 27th March, 2021 and the results are amended accordingly.

The detection of an anabolic androgenic steroid in the sample taken from ARROGANT MISS enacts the provisions of AR248(4) and therefore the mare is not permitted to start in any race from the 27 March, 2021 for a period of 12 months and only after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate is provided to the Stewards.

The Stewards determined, given the application of AR248(4) that ARROGANT MISS was ineligible to run in subsequent Alice Springs races conducted on 24 April, 2021 (race 4) and 2 May, 2021 (race 7) and therefore acting under the provisions of AR53(3)(a) the mare is disqualified from 3rd and 6th placing in those events respectively 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.