



TRNT Stewards Report – Thursday 21st October, 2021

Panel: D Hensler (Chairman of Stewards), D Westover (Alice Springs Chief Steward), D Borovica (RWWA General Manager of Integrity Services)

On Wednesday 28 July, 2021 the TRNT Stewards released the following report:

Whilst conducting stable compliance checks on race morning the Stewards identified that PEMBROKE CASTLE trained by S Brown had a swollen haematoma on the near side jugular vein. Veterinarian Dr R Blanchette examined the site of the haematoma and in her opinion an injection had been administered within the previous 24 hours. Acting under the provisions of AR254(2) the Stewards withdrew the gelding from competing in its engagement in Race 2. Stewards collected blood and urine samples from the gelding and a number of used syringes that were located in the stables were also sent for analysis. Stewards opened an inquiry into this matter and after taking initial evidence and statements, the matter was adjourned pending the results of the collected samples.

The TRNT Stewards continued this inquiry on Friday 30 July, 2021 and after further evidence was taken from trainers Stephen Brown and Chris Nash, stable hand Brent Sullivan, RWWA veterinarian Dr J Medd and Victorian based veterinarian Dr A Tremlett, the matter was adjourned.

The blood and urine samples collected from PEMBROKE CASTLE were analysed by ARFL and no prohibited substances were detected. The inquiry proceeded by way of correspondence as trainer Stephen Brown returned to Victoria in August following the completion of the Darwin Carnival.

Stephen Brown was subsequently found guilty of a breach of AR254(1)(a)(ii) with the specifics being:

1. He was the trainer of PEMBROKE CASTLE at all relevant times leading up to 28 July, 2021
2. The gelding was engaged to run in race 2 on the Darwin Turf Club programme on Wednesday 28 July, 2021
3. Without the permission of the Stewards, he injected PEMBROKE CASTLE at some time on 27 July, 2021 during the one clear day prior to being engaged to race.

In relation to the charge the Stewards acknowledged the following points:

- A review of the CCTV footage at the Darwin Turf Club confirmed that Mr Brown had left the stables at approximately 5.30pm on 27 July, 2021 and did not again attend the stables until after the Stewards had identified the haematoma on PEMBROKE CASTLE at 7.00am on 28 July, 2021.
- The CCTV footage confirmed that there had been no unauthorised entry to the stables on the either 27th or 28th July, 2021

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

- The seriousness of the charge and impact on the image of racing
- No prohibited substance were detected in the gelding's samples
- His long involvement in the racing industry and personal circumstances
- His previous disciplinary record
- Penalties issued previously in other jurisdictions for the same rule breach

Mr Brown was fined the sum of \$4000. He was advised of his right of appeal and that the fine must be paid within 3 months.

Australian Rules of Racing referred to in this report:

AR 254 Injections prohibited at certain times

(1) A person must not, without the permission of the Stewards:

(a) inject;

(b) cause to be injected;

(c) attempt to inject; or

(d) be a party to the injection or attempted injection of,

a horse engaged to run in any race:

*(i) at any time on the day of the scheduled race and prior to the start of that race;
and/or*

(ii) at any time during the 1 clear day prior to 12.00am on the day of the scheduled race.

(2) If a person breaches subrule (1), or the Stewards reasonably suspect that such a breach has been committed, they may order the scratching of the horse from the relevant race.

(3) If a person breaches subrule (1), but the horse competes in the race, the horse may be disqualified from the race.

(4) For the purposes of this rule:

(a) "inject" includes, but is not limited to, the insertion of a hypodermic needle into a horse;

(b) it is not necessary to establish whether any substance was injected, or the nature of any substance injected.