



TRNT Stewards Report – Monday 24 January, 2022

Panel: D Westover, D Hensler, R Hamilton

Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a complaint regarding the condition of the thoroughbred TOMAHAWK LAD when the gelding was under the care of licensed trainer Miss Sarah Robbins. The Stewards considered evidence from Miss Robbins, trainer Mr Russell Bell and veterinarians Dr Sarah Elliott and Dr Ken Oliver.

Miss Sarah Robbins was found guilty of a charge under AR228(a) for engaging in conduct detrimental to the interests of racing. The specifics of the charge were:

- She is a licensed trainer with TRNT
- At all relevant times she was the trainer of TOMAHAWK LAD when the gelding was spelling at Blatherskite Park, Alice Springs up to 22 December, 2021
- Acting as the vendor she listed the gelding for sale through Bloodstockauction.com and an online auction was conducted between 16th and 21st December, 2021
- When the gelding was sold, the new owners had TOMAHAWK LAD collected from Blatherskite Park on 22 December, 2021
- Concerns were raised with the physical condition of the gelding and a subsequent veterinary examination conducted on 23 December, 2021 established TOMAHAWK LAD to be in poor body condition
- Her conduct in failing to exercise reasonable supervision of and care for TOMAHAWK LAD leading up to the 22 December, 2021 had resulted in the gelding being sold and presented to the new owners in a poor body condition
- In the opinion of the Stewards this constitutes engaging in conduct that was prejudicial to the image, interests and welfare of racing

In determining an appropriate penalty the Stewards took into account the following:

- The welfare of thoroughbreds is paramount to the NT Racing Industry and when compromised it is treated as a serious matter
- In the opinion of the Stewards there is no evidence that Miss Robbins deliberately neglected TOMAHAWK LAD to any extent that it has compromised the gelding's overall ongoing welfare
- Under the care arranged by the new owners the gelding is returning to a healthy body condition in a relatively short period of time
- Her personal circumstances and good previous disciplinary record

Sarah Robbins was fined the sum of \$5000. Acting under the provisions of AR283(5) \$2500 of this fine is suspended for a period of 2 years on the condition that she does not breach a similar rule within that time.

The fine must be paid within 3 months and she was advised of her right of appeal.

Australian Rule referred to in this report

AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing

A person must not engage in:

- (a) Conduct prejudicial to the image, interests, or welfare of racing, whether or not that conduct takes place within a racecourse or elsewhere

AR 283 Penalties

- (1) Subject to subrule (3), a person or body authorised 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

- (5) Any person or body authorised by the Rules to penalise a person in respect of any penalty imposed in relation to the conduct of a person and other than in relation to a period of disqualification or a warning off, suspend the operation of that penalty either wholly or in part for a period not exceeding 2 years, on term they think fit.