

TRNT Stewards Report – Monday 27th June, 2022

Panel: D Hensler, R Hamilton, P Carrol

Venue: Darwin Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings that the blood samples taken from WAYANKA prior to competing and finishing 3rd at the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting on 9th April 2022, contained the presence of the prohibited list B substance meloxicam.

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 Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL). Evidence was tendered by trainer Mr Russell Bell, RWWA Racing Industry veterinarian Dr J Medd and ARFL Science Manager Dr A Cawley.

Subsequently Mr Bell pleaded guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing AR240(2) with the specifics being that as the trainer of WAYANKA he did bring that gelding to the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting held at Pioneer Park racecourse on 9th April, 2020 for the purpose of participating in race 8 the Yeperenye Shopping Centre Handicap (1400m) with the prohibited list B substance meloxicam being detected in the pre - race blood sample taken from the gelding.

Acting under the provisions of Australian Rule of Racing 240(1), the Stewards disqualified WAYANKA from the abovementioned race and the results will be amended accordingly with commensurate implications to stake money.

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

- The seriousness of the charge
- The therapeutic nature of the prohibited substance
- His acknowledgement of the breach as demonstrated by his guilty plea
- The treatment records supported that the substance was administered within the withholding period recommended by the stable veterinarian
- Stewards were of the opinion that in all likelihood the low detected level of meloxicam was the result of a residual amount still in the gelding's system following multiple IV administrations
- His co – operation at an initial stable inspection and during the inquiry and his accurate treatment records
- His long involvement in the industry and personal circumstances
- Previous disciplinary record relating to positive swab breaches
- Previous penalty precedents for prohibited list B substances

A fine of \$4000 was imposed.

Mr Bell was advised of his rights of appeal to the NT Racing Appeals Tribunal and that the fine must be paid within 3 months.

Australian Rules of Racing referred to in this report:

Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

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.