

TRNT Stewards Report – Monday 27th March 2023

Panel: D Hensler (Chairman), D Westover, R Hamilton
Venue: Stewards' Room, Darwin Turf Club & Alice Springs Turf Club (via teleconference)

Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) analyst's report of the urine sample provided by track rider Mathew Penney at the Alice Springs Turf Club on 13 February, 2023.

Mathew Penney appeared in person and evidence was taken from Mr John Keledjian, the General Manager of ARFL.

Subsequently, Mathew Penney pleaded guilty to a charge under AR139(1)(a).

The specifics of the charge were:

1. On 13 February he was licensed as a track rider with TRNT and therefore classified as a rider under the Australian Rules of Racing
2. At the direction of the Stewards he did provide a sample of his urine at the Alice Springs Turf Club on the abovementioned date.
3. A banned substance under the Rules of Racing, namely cannabis was detected in that urine sample taken from him.

In determining penalty stewards took into account the following:

- The seriousness of the offence
- The nature of the banned substance and the high level detected
- His guilty plea and personal circumstances
- His previous offence under this rule in 2013
- Mr Penney's license had been placed on hold by the Stewards since 27 February, 2023 due to his continued failure to meet a licensing requirement

Mathew Penney was disqualified for a period 3 months.

He was advised that the Stewards would defer the commencement of the period of disqualification for 4 clear days in accordance with AR283(7) to allow him to make alternative living arrangements as he currently resides at registered racing stables in Alice Springs.

Mr Penney was advised of his right of appeal to the TRNT Appeals Tribunal.