

## **TRNT Stewards Report – Tuesday 21 May, 2024**

**Panel:** D Hensler (Chairman), R Hamilton  
**Venue:** Stewards' Room, Darwin Turf Club

As previously reported, the TRNT Stewards suspended trainer Garry Lefoe under the provisions of AR23(a) after he was charged with the commission of two indictable offences by the NT Police on 30 March, 2024. The suspension was effective from 9 April, 2024 pending the outcome of the court proceedings.

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On Thursday 16 May, 2024 the matters were dealt with in the Darwin Local Court and Garry Lefoe pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a trafficable quantity of cocaine and one count of aggravated assault. Convictions were recorded and the aggregate sentence imposed was a 12 month Community Correction Order with specific restrictions placed on him relating to the possession and consumption of alcohol and dangerous drugs.

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On Tuesday 21 May, 2024 the TRNT Stewards convened an inquiry into the incident that was subject to the convictions and the evidence before the Court was considered.

Garry Lefoe pleaded guilty to a breach of AR228(a). The specifics of the charge being:

1. On 31 March, 2024 he was licensed as a trainer with TRNT
2. On that date he was in attendance at the Bojangles Saloon in Alice Springs, following a race meeting at the Alice Springs Turf Club
3. At that venue, in the early hours of the morning he did physically assault licensed trainer/jockey Mark Pegus by punching him in the head on multiple occasions
4. In the opinion of the Stewards, this conduct was prejudicial to the image, interests, integrity and welfare of racing.

In determining a penalty, the Stewards took into account the following:

- The sentence imposed in the Darwin Local Court
- The 4 weeks Mr Lefoe had been suspended pending the court case
- The serious nature of the unprovoked assault
- The victim required first aid treatment after the incident
- His guilty plea and personal circumstances
- His disciplinary record
- He is currently suspended for a breach of AR140(1)(a)
- Penalty precedents
- This conduct reflects negatively on the image of the NT Racing Industry

Garry Lefoe had his license suspended in full for a period of 3 months. Under the provisions of AR283(5) the TRNT Stewards determined to suspend the operation of this penalty for a period of 12 months on the condition that during this period he is not found guilty of any conduct related breaches under the Australian Rules of Racing. Mr Lefoe was further advised that as a condition of his license he is required to submit to random alcohol and drug testing over the next 12 months at the direction of the TRNT Stewards.

He was informed of his right of appeal to the NT Racing Appeals Tribunal.

Australian Rules referred to in this report.

**AR 23** Suspension pending the hearing and determination of a charge Without limiting any other rules or Stewards' powers, if a person has been charged with a breach of the Rules or with the commission of an indictable criminal offence, and if the Stewards are of the opinion that the continued participation of that person in racing might pose an unacceptable risk of prejudicing the image, interests, integrity or welfare of racing, the Stewards may pending the hearing and determination of the charge:

(a) suspend any licence, registration, right or privilege, granted to that person under these Australian Rules;

### **AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing**

A person must not engage in:

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

### **AR 140 Offences where horse handlers use banned substances**

(1) A horse handler breaches these Australian Rules if:

(a) a banned substance under AR 137(1) is detected in a sample taken from the horse handler;

### **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.

(5) Any person or body authorised by the Rules to penalise a person may 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 terms they think fit.