

TRNT Stewards Report – Tuesday 30 December, 2025

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

TRNT Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) analyst's report of the urine sample provided by dual licensed jockey/trainer Paul Shiers at the Darwin Turf Club race meeting on 28 November 2025.

When notified of the analyst's findings on 23 December 2025, the Stewards informed Mr Shiers that he was stood down from riding pending the outcome of this inquiry in accordance with the provisions of AR139(3)(a).

At the inquiry he subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge under AR139(1)(a).

The specifics of the charge being:

1. On 28 November 2025 he held a dual trainer/jockey license with TRNT and therefore classified as a rider under the Australian Rules of Racing for the purpose of this testing.
2. At the direction of the Stewards, he did provide a urine sample for testing when riding at the Darwin Turf Club race meeting on 28 November 2025.
3. A banned substance under AR136(1)(c)(i), namely cannabis was detected in that urine sample

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

- The nature of the banned substance
- His plausible explanation for the low detected level
- His guilty plea and remorse
- His personal circumstances
- Previous disciplinary history

Stewards also considered the discretionary power relating to any suspension imposed on a dual licence holder outlined in the provisions of Local Rule NT 71.

Paul Shiers was suspended from riding in races, trials and track work for a period of 2 months to expire after 23 February 2026. The Stewards determined that he can continue to train during this period but is not permitted to handle horses until he has provided a clear urine sample.

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

Australian Rules and NT Local Rule referred to in this report.

AR 139 Offences where riders use banned substances

(1) A rider breaches these Australian Rules if:

(a) a banned substance under AR 136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider;

(3) The Stewards may immediately, or pending the determination of any inquiry or other proceeding or the result of any other analysis, stand down a rider from riding in each of the following circumstances:

(a) if a banned substance under AR 136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider;

AR 136 Banned substances in relation to riders

(1) Unless otherwise stated in these Australian Rules, the following substances and/or their metabolites, artefacts and isomers are specified as banned substances in riders when detected in a urine sample at a concentration above the respective threshold level:

(c) all Cannabinoids, including but not limited to:

(i) 11-Nor-delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid (15ug/L);

NT71

The following provisions apply to a Dual Licence Holder:

(a) The holder of a Dual License who is suspended for a breach of the Rules of Racing as a jockey, the Stewards may, in the exercise of their discretion, and in addition to any other penalty imposed by the Rules, also suspend that Dual Licence Holder in their capacity as a trainer for the same, or for such other, period as the Stewards may determine