

Stewards Report

Stewards: - M Zarb (Chairman), D Westover, R Hamilton, R Shiers

Tuesday 6th October 2026

Mr. C Nash - PIRATE

Stewards concluded an inquiry into the result of the analysis of a pre-race blood sample taken on Saturday 18th July 2026 from the racehorse PIRATE, which was presented to race in and competed in Race 2 – the De Silva Hebron 0-62 Handicap Div 1, run over – 1300m at the Darwin Turf Club race meeting. Analysis of the sample disclosed the presence of Tiludronic Acid, which is a substance prohibited under the Rules of Racing. Evidence was taken from Mr. C Nash, trainer of PIRATE and person in charge of the horse, and Mr. G Thornton, previous trainer of PIRATE.

After considering the evidence, Stewards charged Mr. C Nash, under AR240(2), the particulars being that;

- *as the licensed trainer and person in charge of the racehorse PIRATE at all relevant times from 26th June 2026, leading up to and including Saturday 18th July 2026, he did bring the said racehorse to the Darwin Turf Club race meeting where a blood sample was taken from the horse prior to it competing in Race 2 - the De Silva Hebron 0-62 Handicap Div 1, run over – 1300m. Subsequently, the blood sample taken from the horse disclosed, upon analysis, the substance Tiludronic Acid, which is a substance prohibited under the rules of racing,*
 - *as it is a substance capable at any time of causing either directly or indirectly an action and/or effect within the musculo-skeletal system which is specified as a prohibited substance on Prohibited List B, part 1(e) and/or*
 - *it is a substance that is categorised as an agent affecting calcium and bone metabolism which is specified as a prohibited substance on Prohibited List B, part 2(d).*

Mr. C Nash pleaded guilty to the charge – a charge of strict liability. In determining penalty Stewards had regard for a number of factors including the nature of the rule with which he was charged, circumstances which led to the breach of the rule and elements relating to individual and general deterrence.

In the circumstances Stewards imposed a fine of \$1500, however having regard for mitigating factors, which included Mr. C Nash's guilty plea, his good record, his cooperation, forthrightness, and the manner in which he conducted himself during the process and the fact that the treatment records provided by Mr. G Thornton, prior to the horse leaving his stables, was the likely source of the prohibited substance being detected in the sample, Stewards reduced the penalty to a fine of \$750.

Further, acting under AR240(1), PIRATE, which was placed 10th, was disqualified from said race, and the result of the race was amended accordingly.

11th placed (last) horse BENDER MCGEE to be placed 10th.

Mr. C Nash was informed of his rights of appeal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Zarb', with a stylized, cursive script.

M Zarb
Thoroughbred Racing Northern Territory
Chairman of Stewards