



TRNT Stewards Report – Darwin Turf Club

Date: Friday 26 April, 2019

Panel: D Hensler (Chairman), R Hamilton, S Copelin

Stewards today opened an inquiry into the breath analyser test result from a sample given by trainer Craig Conron at the Darwin race meeting conducted yesterday. Mr Conron had stable runners which were engaged and competed in Race 2 (VIDARR) and Race 5 (FIZZY ONE). He had been directed to provide a sample by the Chairman of Stewards acting under the provisions of AR22(1)(i) and the test was conducted to detect any presence of alcohol. After recording the detected levels the matter was adjourned.

After hearing further evidence today, Mr Conron was found guilty of a breach of AR140(1)(a) with the specifics being that at the Darwin Turf Club race meeting conducted on 25 April, 2019 at 5.33pm following the running of race 5, he did provide a breath test at the direction of the Stewards which detected a banned substance, namely alcohol at a concentration in excess of 0.05%. Alcohol detection in excess of this level is a breach of AR137(1)(d) for horse handlers.

Mr Conron had his trainers' licence suspended for a period of 3 months. He was advised of the prohibitions on conduct of this penalty as outlined in AR267. Stewards ordered that the period of suspension is to commence after 3 May, 2019 which will allow him (7) days to make arrangements with his stable in accordance with AR283(7). The term of suspension will therefore expire after 3 August, 2019.

In determining penalty Stewards took into account:

- The seriousness of the charge as it relates to a banned substance
- Similar precedents for this type of offence
- The detected level was well in excess of the prescribed limit
- His previous breach of this rule in 2016
- The penalty must serve as a general and specific deterrent
- Mr Conron's personal circumstances

Mr Conron was advised of his rights of appeal to the Independent Appeals Tribunal within (7) days.

Australian Rules referred to in this report:-

AR22 Investigations and inquiries

(1) Without limiting any other Stewards powers, the Stewards have the following powers in relation to investigations and inquiries:

(i) to take (or cause to be taken) any sample from any horse handler before or after handling any horse at any race meeting, official trial, jump-out or trackwork, where a Steward reasonably suspects that the horse handler is affected by a banned substance under AR137(1).

AR140 Offences where horse handlers used banned substances

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

(a) a banned substance under AR137(1) is detected in a sample from the horse handler

AR137 Banned substances in relation to horse handlers

(1) Unless otherwise stated in these Australian Rules, the following substances or their metabolites, artefacts and isomers are specified as banned substances in horse handlers when detected in a urine sample at a level in brackets immediately next to the identified substance:

(d) alcohol (at a blood alcohol concentration in excess of 0.05% (that is, 50 milligrams of alcohol in every 100 millilitres of blood) on a breath analysing instrument

AR267 Prohibitions on conduct of trainers during period of suspension

Except with consent of a PRA or the Stewards who imposed the suspension, during the period of the suspension a suspended trainer or a person holding a permit to train must not:

(a) as a trainer or permit holder, nominate a horse for a race, official trial or jump-out; or

(b) train or participate in any way in the training of a horse; or

(c) be registered as a stablehand, or be employed or act or be involved in any capacity in any racing stable.

AR283 Penalties

(7) A person or body authorised by these Australian Rules to suspend or disqualify any trainer may defer the commencement of the period of suspension or disqualification for no more than 7 clear day following the day the suspension or disqualification was imposed, and upon terms and conditions considered fit.