



TRNT Stewards Report – Darwin Turf Club

Thursday 5 July, 2018

Panel: D Hensler (Chairman), D Westover

Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) analyst's report of the urine sample provided on Monday 18 June, 2018 by TNRT licensed stablehand Mr Steven Banks. The analyst reported the presence of the metabolite of cannabis at a level in excess of the threshold permitted under AR81B.

Evidence was taken from Mr S Banks, trainer Mrs J Banks and the ARFL sample paperwork was tendered.

Steven Banks subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge under AR 81A(1)(a), the specifics being that as a licensed stable hand, the urine sample taken from him after riding track work at the Darwin Turf Club on Monday 18 June, 2018 was found upon analysis to contain a substance banned by AR81B namely cannabis.

In determining penalty Stewards took into account:

- The seriousness of the offence
- The nature of the banned substance
- Mr Bank's plea of guilty and remorse for his actions
- His personal circumstances
- His previous offences in relation to AR81

Mr Banks had his stablehand licence (in full) suspended for a period of 9 months effective immediately.

Acting under the provisions of AR183D Stewards advised him that he will not be permitted to ride again as a track rider for the full 9 month period but ruled he may return to duties as a stablehand (excluding track riding) after a period of 3 months on the condition that he provides a clear sample in accordance AR81A(4).

*AR183D states – Unless otherwise permitted by the stewards or a Principal Racing Authority, and upon such conditions as they may in their discretion impose, a stablehand while suspended shall not be employed or work in any racing stable during the period of his suspension.*