



INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYSTS' FINDING OF METFORMIN IN A PRE-RACE URINE SAMPLE TAKEN FROM SOFIE'S GEM BEFORE THE GELDING STARTED IN RACE 2 – TAMWORTH CLASSIC FIRE ENGINE CLUB COUNTRY BOOSTED MAIDEN HANDICAP 1200M CONDUCTED AT THE TAMWORTH JOCKEY CLUB RACE MEETING ON MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2023

**Board Room
Newcastle Jockey Club
via teleconference**

Friday 22 December 2023

**STEWARDS: J B Marshall (Chair)
S G Railton
R W Loughlin**

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analysts' finding of metformin in a pre-race urine sample taken from Sofie's Gem before it ran in Race 2 – Tamworth Classic Fire Engine Club Country Boosted Maiden Handicap 1200m, conducted at the Tamworth Jockey Club race meeting on Monday 25 September 2023.

Evidence was today taken from the trainer of Sofie's Gem, Mr Simon Casey, and Racing NSW Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Peter Curl.

Charge

Mr Casey pleaded guilty to a charge under AR240(2) in that, as the trainer of Sofie's Gem at all relevant times up to and including Monday 25 September 2023, he did bring that gelding to Tamworth racecourse on Monday 25 September 2023 for the purpose of participating in Race 2 – Tamworth Classic Fire Engine Club Country Boosted Maiden Handicap 1200m, when a prohibited substance on Prohibited List B, namely metformin, was detected in the urine sample taken from Sofie's Gem before the race.

Penalty

The following matters were considered in respect to penalty:

1. Guilty plea & co-operation during the investigation and inquiry
2. Stewards were satisfied that the finding of Metformin in the sample was as a consequence of inadvertent contamination involving the use of a properly prescribed human medication.
3. Mr Casey's disciplinary record

4. Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.
5. Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the thoroughbred racing industry.

Mr Casey was fined \$4000.

Sofie's Gem

In accordance with the provisions of AR240(1) Sofie's Gem was disqualified from its seventh placing in Race 2 – The Tamworth Classic Fire Engine Club Country Boosted Maiden Handicap 1200m.

Relevant Rules:

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting.

- (1) *Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.*
- (2) *Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.*

J B Marshall
Stipendiary Steward
Racing NSW