



INQUIRY INTO THE DETECTION OF TRENDIONE AND EPITRENBOLONE IN A URINE SAMPLE PROVIDED
BY RAHAAN PRIOR TO RACING AT BALLINA ON 17 JANUARY 2020

Ballina Racecourse

12 August 2020

**Stewards: M F Van Gestel (Chairman)
M Holloway
R Loughlin**

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analysts finding of trendione and epitrenbolone in a urine sample taken from Rahaan prior to running at the Ballina race meeting on 17 January 2020. Evidence today was taken from Ms Julie Pratten, trainer of Rahaan, Racing NSW Permitted Veterinarian Dr Kevin Squire, Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) Science Manager Dr Adam Cawley and Racing NSW Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Toby Koenig.

General

Stewards gave careful consideration to which of the prohibited substance Rules of Racing should be applied and considered that, given the circumstances of the matter and having regard to the veterinary and scientific evidence, AR240 was the Rule of Racing that most appropriately reflected the relevant conduct.

The evidence established the following.

1. In June 2018 Racing NSW provided notification to the racing industry that injectable altrenogest products should not be administered to thoroughbreds following trendione, epitrenbolone and trenbolone being found at low levels due to impurities being present in altrenogest products. In conjunction with the introduction of NSW LR44A, Racing NSW advised that oral altrenogest products could be used but not within one clear day of racing. Several notifications subsequent to this advice in June 2018 were released by Racing NSW reminding participants of this notification.
2. On 1 January 2020 Dr Squire prescribed and dispensed to Ms Pratten for stable use Ovu-Mate Injection for Horses. Analysis of the Ovu-Mate Injection for Horses found trendione to be present at between approximately 2 to 5 times greater than in the oral altrenogest products when analysed by the ARFL.
3. When prescribed Dr Squire advised Ms Pratten to use the substance 5 days prior to racing.
4. Ms Pratten provided evidence she was aware of the notification from Racing NSW. She advised after making enquiries with Dr Squire in respect to this notification, Dr Squire still prescribed the injectable product when he did not have a supply of oral altrenogest and that he said the injectable product was more effective and he had not had any issue with its use.

5. Dr Squire advised he was not aware of the notification made by Racing NSW but confirmed he told Ms Pratten not to use the injectable product within 5 days of racing.
6. A review of Ms Patten's treatment records revealed she treated Rahaan with on 1, 9 and 15 January 2020 with the last treatment being 2 days prior to Rahaan racing on 17 January 2020.
7. The Stewards did not consider it appropriate to exercise the discretion under NSW LR44A in respect of this charge as the analysis by the ARFL confirmed the presence of trendione and epitrenbolone in the urine sample provided by Rahaan to be above 1ug/l set by NSW LR44A and, as set out above, the substance was not administered in accordance with the advice published by Racing NSW (such advice being that injectable altrenogest products should not be administered to thoroughbreds).

Charge

Ms Pratten was charged with the following offence.

AR240(2) – Presented Rahaan to race at the Ballina racecourse on 17 January 2020 and a pre-race urine sample was found to contain the prohibited substance trendione and epitrenbolone.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty

Stewards considered the following matters in respect to penalty.

1. Notifications issued by Racing NSW in respect to the use of altrenogest products and the fact Ms Pratten was aware of such notification.
2. Her use of the Ovu-mate 2 days from racing.
3. The nature of the substance, being listed on prohibited substance List A.
4. Guilty plea.
5. Personal and professional circumstances.
6. Good record over 8 years of training.
7. Principles applied by Stewards when issuing penalties.

Stewards determined the starting point for such offence was a period of 12 months disqualification, with the penalty being reduced to 9 months having regard to a 25% reduction for her guilty plea. Under the provisions of AR283(7) Ms Pratten was allowed 7 days to continue to care for her horses however she is not permitted to start a horse in a race during this period.

Rahaan

Under the provisions of AR240(1) Stewards disqualified Rahaan from its 6th placing in Race 1 – Showcase Country Maiden Plate conducted at Ballina racecourse on 17 January and amended the placings to read.

1 st	Montana Mist
2 nd	Spring Nymph

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3 rd	Amirykal
4 th	Shy Boy
5 th	She's Leaven
6 th	Grand Anthem
7 th	Poetic Affair
8 th	Tezza

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.*

**M F VAN GESTEL
CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS
GENERAL MANAGER - INTEGRITY**