



INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYSTS' FINDINGS RELATIVE TO A URINE SAMPLE PROVIDED BY
LICENSED TRAINER MS AMANDA DAVIS

Racing NSW Headquarters

19 April 2024

**Stewards: S G Railton (Chair)
J R Johnstone**

Racing NSW Stewards today determined the matter of penalty in respect of an inquiry into the analyst's findings relative to a urine sample provided by licensed trainer Ms Amanda Davis at Broadmeadow Racecourse, Newcastle on 6 February 2024.

On 19 March 2024, Ms Davis was stood down from her riding entitlement after Stewards received the certified findings of the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) Analyst that the urine sample provided by Ms Davis was found, upon analysis, to contain a banned substance under AR136(1), greater than the cut-off.

At a hearing before Stewards on 28 March 2024, Ms Davis, who was assisted by Mr Matthew Stirling, Barrister, entered a guilty plea for being in breach of AR139(1)(a) as detailed below.

Charge : AR139 Offences where riders use banned substances

The details of the charge being that licensed trainer Ms Amanda Davis provided a sample of her urine on the morning of 6 February 2024 at Broadmeadow Racecourse, Newcastle which was found upon analysis to contain a banned substance under AR136(1), greater than the cut-off.

Plea : Guilty

Penalty

Following submissions made by Mr Stirling on Ms Davis' behalf, Stewards decided that the riding component of Ms Davis' licence should be suspended for a period of 9 months. Having regard to her guilty plea and other relevant considerations detailed below, Stewards varied the penalty to 6 months, to commence on 19 March 2024, the day she was stood down, and to expire on 19 September 2024.

Furthermore, Ms Davis was advised that should she provide evidence of having completed a period of satisfactory counselling, the penalty would be further varied to allow her to resume riding duties on 1 August 2024.

Ms Davis was notified that in accordance with AR139(4), she will be required to provide a urine sample free from any substances banned by AR136(1), prior to being permitted to resume riding duties.

Penalty Considerations

The Stewards considered the following matters when determining penalty.

1. Guilty plea
2. Forthright evidence and co-operation at the inquiry.
3. Good disciplinary record.
4. References provided by a number of industry participants
5. Personal and professional circumstances.
6. Principle of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect of such conduct.
7. Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the thoroughbred racing industry.

Relevant Rule

Division 6 – Banned substances offences for riders and horse handlers

AR 139 Offences where riders used banned substances

- (1) A rider breaches these Australian Rules if:*
- (a) a banned substance under AR 136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider*
- (4) If a rider incurs a penalty or is prevented by the Stewards from riding under this rule, the rider cannot resume riding until the period of the penalty has expired and a sample from the rider free of any banned substance under AR 136(1) has been delivered, as directed by the Stewards.*

S G Railton

**Chairman of Stewards
Racing NSW**