



INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYST'S FINDINGS OF BANNED SUBSTANCES DETECTED IN A URINE SAMPLE
PROVIDED BY TRACKWORK RIDER MR MICHAEL WADE

Video Link

Tuesday, 1 February 2022

STEWARDS: T J Vassallo (Chairman)
C L Albrecht

Racing NSW Stewards today enquired into the analyst's findings relative to a urine sample provided by licensed trackwork rider Michael Wade at the Rosehill Racecourse on Tuesday, 14 December 2021.

Charge:

Licensed trackwork rider Michael Wade was charged with a breach of AR139(1)(a) in that he did provide a sample of his urine on the morning of Tuesday, 14 December 2021 at Rosehill Racecourse, which was found upon analysis to contain a banned substance under AR136(1), greater than cut-off.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: Licence suspended in full for a period of 9 months reduced to 6 months, to commence on Tuesday, 25 January 2022, the day he was stood down, and to expire on Tuesday, 26 July 2022.

In issuing this penalty, Stewards considered Mr Wade's guilty plea, licensing history, forthright evidence and personal circumstances. Stewards, however, were concerned regarding the nature of the substance and the relatively high levels detected in the sample.

Mr Wade was advised that should he complete a period of satisfactory counselling, the penalty would be reduced by 3 months allowing him to resume stablehand duties on Tuesday, 26 April 2022.

In addition, Mr Wade was notified that in accordance with AR139(4), he will be required to provide a urine sample free from any substance banned by AR136(1), prior to being permitted to resume duties.

Mr Wade was advised of his rights of appeal.

Relevant Rules:

Division 5 – Substances banned for use by riders and horse handlers

AR 136 Banned substances in relation to riders

(1) Unless otherwise stated in these Australian Rules, the following substances and/or their metabolites, artefacts and isomers are specified as banned substances in riders when detected in a urine sample at a concentration above the respective threshold level:

(g) all stimulants including but not limited to:

(viii) cocaine (100µg/L);

Division 6 – Banned substance offences for riders and horse handlers

AR 139 Offences where riders use 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.

T J Vassallo
Senior Stipendiary Steward – Racing NSW