

## **RACING NSW – STEWARDS REPORT**



INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE ANALYSTS FINDINGS RELATIVE TO A BLOOD SAMPLE TAKEN FROM TAPICONIC PRIOR TO IT COMPETING IN TRIAL 2 AT WARWICK FARM ON 10 MARCH 2020.

**RNSW Offices**

**1 May 2020**

**Druitt Street**

**Sydney**

**Stewards: C L Albrecht (Chairman)  
W R Birch**

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Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings of Frusemide in a blood sample collected from the racehorse Tapiconic prior to it barrier trialling in heat 2 of the official barrier trials conducted at Warwick Farm on 10 March 2020. Tapiconic was under a suspension from racing at the relevant time due to its racing manners after it dislodged its rider a short distance after the start during an official barrier trial at Warwick Farm on 5 March 2020.

Evidence was today taken from Co-Trainer of Tapiconic Mr. Ciaron Maher, representing the interests of the training partnership with Mr. David Eustace.

Subsequently, Mr. Maher pleaded guilty to a charge under AR241(a) in that as the Co-Trainer of Tapiconic, he did present that gelding at Warwick Farm on 10 March 2020 to participate in an official trial for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start in a race, when a blood sample taken from Tapiconic prior to the trial, upon analysis, revealed the presence of the prohibited substance Frusemide.

When considering the matter of penalty, Stewards were satisfied that treatment was not for the purpose of assisting Tapiconic to obtain a permit to race and also took into account the forthright evidence provided by Mr. Maher at all times during the Stewards Inquiry. Having regard to the penalties imposed for similar offences, Stewards believed the appropriate penalty to be a fine of \$3000.

Mr Maher was advised of his right of appeal.

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### ***Relevant Rules***

***AR 241 Prohibited substance in a sample taken from horse at trial etc***

***If a horse is brought to a racecourse or recognised training track to participate in:***

- (a) an official trial;***
- (b) a jump out;***
- (c) any other test***

***for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start in a race (whether after suspension or otherwise), 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 the event, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at the relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.***