



INQUIRY INTO AN ALLEGATION THAT LICENSED TRAINER MR DAVID PFIEFFER HAD SUBSTITUTED A URINE SAMPLE PROVIDED TO RACING NSW STEWARDS ON 24 APRIL 2019 AND AN ALLEGATION THAT MR PFIEFFER HAD FAILED TO REPORT TO THE STEWARDS THAT THE RACEHORSES FAMOUS AND ZOUSPECTRE HAD BLOOD PRESENT AT THEIR NOSTRIL WHICH WAS NOT REPORTED TO STEWARDS.

RNSW Offices
Druitt Street
Sydney

18 May 2021

Stewards: M F Van Gestel (Chairman)
S G Railton
C L Albrecht

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into an allegation that licensed trainer Mr David Pfeiffer had substituted a urine sample provided to Racing NSW Stewards on 24 April 2019. The sample was directed to be taken from Mr Pfeiffer and a number of his stable staff following an irregularity (below the screening limit) being found in an equine sample from a horse trained by Mr Pfeiffer. Further, Stewards also considered an allegation that Mr Pfeiffer had failed to report to the Stewards that the racehorses Famous and Zouspectre, which were trained by Mr Pfeiffer, had blood present at their nostril which was not reported to Stewards.

Evidence today was taken from Mr Pfeiffer who was assisted by solicitor Mr M Callanan. A brief of evidence provided by Racing NSW General Manager – Investigations and Surveillance Ms J Johnstone was also considered by the Stewards.

Charges

Mr Pfeiffer today was charged with the following offences under the Rules of Racing.

1. Charge 1 – AR140(1)(b) Substituting a Urine Sample

He did deliver a urine sample when directed by Racing NSW Stewards and Investigators to do so at Warwick Farm on 24 April 2019, which was a substituted urine sample provided by another donor.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: 9 Months Disqualification reduced from 12 months for guilty plea.

Stewards ruled that the period of disqualification was to commence immediately and to expire on 18 February 2022. Under the provisions of AR283(7) the Stewards provided Mr Pfeiffer 7 days to continue to care and train horses currently in his care, but such horses are not permitted to start in a race or barrier trial.

2. Charge 2 – AR 79 Horses with bleeding

He did fail to report to the Stewards, without delay, that the racehorse Famous had displayed blood at one nostril following Famous barrier trialling on 15 September 2020 and 28 September 2020.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: \$1500 fine

3. Charge 3 – AR 79 Horses with bleeding

He did fail to report to the Stewards, without delay, that the racehorse Zouspectre had displayed blood at one nostril on one occasion between the period 4 September 2019 and 23 February 2021 when trained by him.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: \$1000 fine

Penalty

The Stewards considered the following matters when determining penalty.

1. Seriousness of the dishonest conduct.
2. Mr Pfeiffer's personal circumstances.
3. His guilty plea.
4. Good record.
5. Co-operation with Stewards during the investigation and at today's inquiry.

Further the general principles when considering penalty were taken into account.

6. What message is to be given to this individual to not only ensure that in the future this type of conduct is not repeated, but to also ensure that there is an appropriate penalty imposed to indicate the response of the community to integrity and welfare issues.
7. What general message is required to be sent to the community at large to indicate to those who might be likeminded to engage in such conduct, what the likely consequences are, and, secondly, to indicate to the broader community who are not likely to engage in the type of conduct that, should it be detected, they, whether they be wagerers or people just generally interested in the individual code, will know that it is operating at the highest possible standards.

Relevant Rules

AR 140 Offences where horse handlers use banned substances.

(1) A horse handler breaches these Australian Rules if:

RACING NSW – STEWARDS REPORT

(b) the horse handler refuses or fails to deliver a sample as directed by the Stewards, tampers with, adulterates, alters, substitutes, or in any way hinders the collection of, a sample or attempts to do any of those things.

AR 79 Horses with bleeding

- (7) If a horse displays blood at one nostril, the trainer must report that to the Stewards without delay.*
- (8) Unless the Stewards are satisfied that the presence of blood referred to in subrule (7) is attributable to external trauma, then before racing again the horse is required to undergo a satisfactory gallop of at least 1,000 metres in the presence of a Steward.*

**M F Van Gestel
Chairman of Stewards
General Manager - Integrity**