

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **For immediate release**

Date of issue 27 August 2018

### **INQUIRY – THOROUGHBRED TRAINER MARK GANDERTON**

On Monday 27 August 2018, Office of Racing Integrity Stewards resumed their inquiry into the results of analysis of a pre-race blood sample taken from Speedy Illusion trained by Mr Mark Ganderton prior to it competing at the Tasmanian Racing Club meeting on 11 February 2018, which revealed the presence of the prohibited substance Caffeine.

After being found guilty of a charge on 8 August 2018 under the provisions AR.178, which reads

*Subject to AR.178G, when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.*

Mr Ganderton today provided submissions in relation to penalty,

In determining an appropriate penalty Stewards took into account,

- Mr Ganderton's length of time involved in the industry
- His record relating to the prohibited substance rules
- Personal and financial circumstances
- Relevant penalty precedents
- That any penalty act as an individual and general deterrent

Mr Ganderton was disqualified for a period of 12 months to commence immediately and expire at midnight 26 August 2019.

Furthermore Stewards directed that the 6 month disqualification which had been suspended for 2 years by the Tasmanian Racing Appeals Board provided Mr Ganderton commit no further breach of the Australian Rules of Racing prohibited substance rules handed down on 3 June 2016 to be invoked and to be served cumulatively with the above mentioned disqualification and that is to commence 27 August 2019 and expire at midnight 26 February 2020.

Mr Ganderton was advised of his rights of appeal.

Acting under the provisions of AR.177 Speedy Illusion is disqualified from its 8<sup>th</sup> placing in Race 1 – Tasmanian Horse Transport Maiden (1200 metres) conducted at the Tasmanian Racing Club meeting on 11 February 2018.

Scott Quill

**CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS – THOROUGHBRED**