

**STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION**

- Date of Decision:** 19 January 2021
- Stewards Panel:** L Lord (Chair), S Shinn, H Edgecombe
- Name:** Mr. Zeke Slater
- Track/Race:** Tasmanian Trotting Club Trials, Trial 4, 2090M Mobile Trial.
- Date:** 5 October 2020
- Rule no:** AHRR190(1, 2 & 4) & AHRR196A(1)(ii)
- Charge(s):** In relation to AHRR190(1,2 & 4); The particulars of the charge are:
1. Mr. Zeke Slater is, and was at all relevant times, a trainer licenced by the Office of Racing Integrity Tasmania and a person bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules.
  2. Mr. Zeke Slater was, at all relevant times, the trainer of the horse 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC'.
  3. 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC' was nominated to; and did compete in Trial 4, a 2090M Mobile trial, at the Tasmanian Trotting Club on 5 October 2020.
  4. On 5 October 2020 Mr. Slater presented 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC' to the trial when not free of any prohibited substance, given that;
    - a. A pre-trial sample of urine was taken from 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC' (the Sample).
    - b. Frusemide was detected in that Sample, as evidenced by the evidentiary certificates RS20/13332-B from RASL and ARF20/3247 from the ARFL.
    - c. Frusemide is a prohibited substance as per AHRR188A(1)(a & b).

In relation to AHRR196A(1)(ii); The particulars of the charge are:

1. Mr. Zeke Slater is, and was at all relevant times, a trainer licenced by the Office of Racing Integrity Tasmania and a person bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules.
2. Mr Slater was, at all relevant times, the trainer of the horse 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC'.
3. 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC' was nominated to; and did compete in Trial 4, a 2090M Mobile trial, at the Tasmanian Trotting Club on 5 October 2020.
4. Mr. Slater administered the prohibited substance FRUSEMIDE to 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC' as evidenced by his treatment logbook and verbal evidence to stewards and this resulted in the positive sample taken on 5 October 2020 given that;
  - a. A pre-trial sample of urine was taken from 'ROCKNROLL MUSIC' (the Sample).
  - b. Frusemide was detected in that Sample, as evidenced by the evidentiary certificates RS20/13332-B from RASL and ARF20/3247 from the ARFL.
  - c. Frusemide is a prohibited substance as per AHRR188A(1)(a & b).

**Prohibited Substance:** FRUSEMIDE

**Inquiry Decision:** Mr. Slater was fined \$3,000 for the breach of AHRR190(1,2 & 4)

Mr. Slater's licence was suspended for three (3) months for the breach of AHRR196A(1)(ii). Of which this suspension of licence is wholly suspended for two (2) years, under the provision that Mr. Slater does not re-offend under a prohibited substance Rule.

ROCKNROLL MUSIC was disqualified from the Trial with the placings to be amended accordingly

#### **FACTS:**

Prohibited substance Frusemide has been detected in a pre-trial urine sample collected from ROCKNROLL MUSIC before it competed in the Tasmanian Trotting Club Trials, Trial 4, 2090M Mobile Trial on 5 October 2020 when trained by licenced trainer Mr. Zeke Slater.

Mr. Slater administered the prohibited substance Frusemide to the horse ROCKNROLL MUSIC as evidenced by his treatment logbook and verbal evidence to stewards.

#### **INQUIRY:**

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that Frusemide had been detected in a pre-trial urine sample taken from ROCKNROLL MUSIC at Tasmanian Trotting Club Trials on 5 October 2020.

Stewards considered written evidence from ORI Regulatory Veterinarian Dr. Adam Richardson in relation to the effects of Frusemide in horses.

Stewards heard verbal evidence tendered by trainer Mr. Zeke Slater as to his feeding, supplementation, treatment and husbandry practices.

After giving due consideration to all of the evidence tendered, Mr. Slater was charged pursuant to AHRR190(1,2 & 4) for presenting ROCKNROLL MUSIC to race when not free of the prohibited substance Frusemide. Mr. Slater was further charged pursuant to AHRR196A(1)(ii) for administering the prohibited substance Frusemide to the horse ROCKNROLL MUSIC.

Mr. Slater pleaded guilty to both charges.

When determining penalty, Stewards took the following things into account:

- Mr. Slater's submissions in relation to penalty
- His guilty plea to the charges
- His co-operation and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry
- His clean offence record under prohibited substance rules
- His time and involvement in the industry
- His relevant personal circumstances
- The relevant circumstances of this particular case
- Stewards considered that a penalty needs to act as a general deterrent, in order to uphold the integrity of the racing industry
- Stewards considered penalties that have been imposed in cases of a similar nature in Tasmania as well as other jurisdictions

#### **DECISION:**

Charge 1: Mr. Slater was fined \$3,000.00 for the breach of AHRR190(1,2 & 4)

Charge 2: Mr. Slater's licence was Suspended for a period of three (3) months for the breach of AHRR196A(1)(ii). Of which this penalty is wholly suspended for two (2) years, under the provision that Mr. Slater does not re-offend under a prohibited substance Rule. Mr Slater was advised of his rights of appeal.

Acting under the provisions of AHRR195, ROCKNROLL MUSIC was disqualified from the Event with the placings to be amended accordingly.