

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

29 March 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Michael Stanley

On 28 March 2019, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered charges issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) against licensed trainer Michael Stanley.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

The first charge under AHRR 190(1) related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Sky Petite' after it finished second in Race 7, the 'TAB Inter Dominion Trotting Championship Grand Final (Group 1)', at the Tabcorp Park Melton harness racing meeting on 15 December 2018. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that analysis of that urine sample revealed the sample to contain arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

The second charge under AHRR 190(1) related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Watch List' after it finished first in Race 3, the 'Westside Plant Hire 3YO Pace', at the Geelong harness racing meeting on 19 December 2018. RASL reported that analysis of that urine sample revealed the sample to contain arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

Mr Stanley pleaded guilty to the charges before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards and Mr Stanley.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Stanley's early guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Stanley's record during his 20 years in the industry and his personal circumstances.

The HRV Board also considered both general and specific deterrence; the circumstances of the matter; the significance of prohibited substance matters; and the onus being on participants to be aware of industry issues.

On the first charge Mr Stanley was subsequently fined \$5000, of which \$2500 was suspended for a period of 12 months; on the second charge Mr Stanley was fined \$2000, of which \$1500 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Sky Petite' be disqualified from Race 7, the 'TAB Inter Dominion Trotting Championship Grand Final (Group 1)', at the Tabcorp Park Melton harness racing meeting on 15 December 2018.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Watch List' be disqualified from Race 3, the 'Westside Plant Hire 3YO Pace', at the Geelong harness racing meeting on 19 December 2018.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks (Chair), Mr Robert Abrahams and Mr Rod Osborne.

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 50B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.