

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

12 October 2018

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Zachary Steenhuis

On 10 October 2018, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered three charges issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) against licensed trainer Zachary Steenhuis.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

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

The first charge related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Als Law' after it finished first in Race 2, the 'Victoria Square Trotters Association Trotters Handicap', at the Swan Hill harness racing meeting on 25 April 2018. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported analysis of that urine sample revealed it to contain arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

The second charge related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Als Law' after it finished in first place in Race 4, the 'Stawell Lawn Mower Centre Trotters Handicap', at the Stawell harness racing meeting on 14 May 2018. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported analysis of that urine sample revealed it to contain arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

The third charge related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Als Law' prior to it finishing in seventh place in Race 8, the 'Bohbron Park Trotters Handicap', at the Shepparton harness racing meeting on 23 May 2018. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported analysis of that urine sample revealed it to contain arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

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

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Steenhuis's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Steenhuis's record, his relative young age and his personal circumstances; both general and specific deterrence; and the steps taken by Mr Steenhuis to replace his fencing.

In relation to the first and second charges, Mr Steenhuis was fined \$4000, of which \$2000 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

In relation to the third charge Mr Steenhuis was fined \$2000.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Als Law' be disqualified from Race 2 at Swan Hill on 25 April 2018; from Race 4 at Stawell on 14 May 2018; and from Race 8 at Shepparton on 23 May 2018; and that the placings in those races be amended accordingly. Under AHRR 200, any prize money paid for the races in which 'Als Law' was disqualified is to be repaid.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks and Kevin Carson