

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

10 October 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Kari Males

On 1 October 2019, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered a charge issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) against licensed trainer Kari Males.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

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

The charge related to a urine sample collected from the horse 'Good Guy Mack' after it won Race 7, the 'Woodlands Stud Pace Final', at the Tabcorp Park Melton harness racing meeting on 2 May 2019. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported the sample contained arsenic in excess of the allowable threshold.

Mrs Males pleaded guilty to the charge before submissions on penalty were heard from the HRV Stewards and Mrs Males.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mrs Males guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; her lengthy history of involvement in the harness racing industry, the extensive fencing work to prevent further offences and Mrs Males good offence record. Also the purpose of the rules in relation to prohibited substances to protect the integrity of the industry and to ensure drug free racing; penalties in similar cases; both general and specific deterrence; and past industry notices regarding arsenic.

Mrs Males was fined \$3000, of which \$2250 was suspended for a period of 12 months. The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Good Guy Mack' be disqualified from Race 7 at Tabcorp Park Melton on 2 May 2019 and the placings be amended accordingly. The HRV RAD Board further ordered that any prizemoney won by 'Good Guy Mack' from the race in question be returned to HRV.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks (Chair) and Robert Abrahams (Deputy Chair)