



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Friday 11 October 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

Harness Stewards Inquiry – Trainer Mr. Mark Lee (LIKA MISSILE)

On Tuesday 8 October 2019, Racing and Wagering Western Australia's (RWAA) stewards conducted an inquiry in relation to the report received from the ChemCentre in Perth, that the pre-race blood sample taken from LIKA MISSILE prior to it competing in Race 2 at Bunbury on 7 September 2019, has been found to have a level of total carbon dioxide content (TCO₂) in excess of 36.0 millimoles per litre in plasma.

LIKA MISSILE finished 7th place in the event.

Mr Lee confirmed his plea of guilty to the charges issued at the inquiry conducted on 26 September 2019, which was adjourned in order for him to seek further advice with respect to Charge 1:

Charge 1. *Harness Rule of Racing 190. Presentation free of prohibited substances*

Particulars:

The particulars of the charge being that Mr Lee as the trainer, presented LIKA MISSILE to race in Race 2 at Bunbury on 7 September 2019, not free of the prohibited substance alkalinising agents as evidenced by a concentration of TCO₂ in excess of 36.0 mm/L in plasma.

Charge 2. *Harness Rule of Racing 196C. Administering substances.*

Particulars:

The particulars of the charge being that Mr Lee did administer via feed the alkalinising agent Sodium Bicarbonate to LIKA MISSILE, which was engaged to race in Race 2 at Bunbury on 7 September 2019, on 6 September 2019 which was within one clear day of the commencement of the race contrary to the provisions of *HR196C*.

Stewards, having reserved their decision with respect to penalty, have advised Mr Lee today that a disqualification of 6-months was being imposed effective as of 26 September 2019 (the date upon which his licence was suspended pending outcome of this inquiry), with respect to the offence under *HR190* and a fine of \$2,000 for the offence under *HR196C*.

Pursuant to *HR195*, LIKA MISSILE was also disqualified from the event.

In determining penalty stewards took into account, amongst other things:

- The length and extent of Mr Lee's involvement in harness racing, prior good record and co-operation as reflected by his pleas of guilt.
- The level of TCO₂ reported by the ChemCentre (37.4mm/L)
- The serious nature of these offences, penalties issued in previous cases and the need for deterrence both general and specific.

ENDS

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