



STEWARDS' INQUIRY: S LOONE - CROOKWELL JAKE

HRSA Stewards have concluded an Inquiry into the circumstances in which analysis of a pre-race urine sample taken from CROOKWELL JAKE at Globe Derby Park on Saturday 2 October 2021 had detected the substance FRUSEMIDE.

On Thursday 30 December evidence was heard from Trainer S Loone and HRSA Veterinarian Dr R Haensel and Analytical Certificates were tendered from Racing Analytical Services in Melbourne and the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory in Sydney.

After considering the available evidence Stewards issued a charge under Rules HR 190(1), (2) and (4). The particulars of the charge were;

- (1) Mr Loone was at all relevant times a Trainer currently licensed by HRSA;
- (2) Mr Loone was at all relevant times prior to 2 October 2021 the Trainer of the registered horse CROOKWELL JAKE;
- (3) On Saturday 2 October 2021, the registered horse CROOKWELL JAKE was brought to Globe Derby Park and competed in Race 8 – Rock 'N' Roll World USA Claiming Pace; and
- (4) A prohibited substance Frusemide [as prescribed by HR 188A(1)(a) and (b)] was detected in a pre-race urine sample taken from CROOKWELL JAKE prior to the running of the race.

Mr Loone pleaded guilty to the charge.

The Trainer provided a brief submission on penalty including a preference for the suspension of a portion of any penalty. After deliberating on the penalty, having regard to the HRSA Penalty Guidelines Stewards imposed a fine of \$3,750.

In determining penalty Stewards considered several factors including:

- The Trainer's acknowledgement of the offence, as evidenced by his plea of guilt.
- Mr Loone's present personal circumstances, including his level of involvement in harness racing over 20 years.
- The Trainers previous offence history which included three previous prohibited substance offences. Mr Loone was advised that had two of those matters not involved the substance Arsenic, the Stewards would have been obliged to consider a higher level of penalty.
- The Trainer had presented over 1400 starters since his previous prohibited substance offence.
- The nature of the substance detected, that being of a therapeutic nature, and the absence of evidence to indicate otherwise.
- Recent penalties imposed in relation to the substance Frusemide in both equine racing codes.
- That in view of Mr Loone's offence record it would not be appropriate to suspend any portion of the penalty.

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- That the penalty announced, considering the substance detected, would send an appropriate message to the industry and its customers that;
 - (a) the integrity of harness racing, and its product, must be protected;
 - (b) harness racing is to be conducted on a level playing field; and
 - (c) horses race without the effect of drugs or medication;
 - (d) harness racing is conducted to protect the safety and welfare of its horses and its participants.

Mr Loone was informed of his right to appeal this decision.

Following a stable inspection on 12 October 2021, Mr Loone had failed to provide his log book as directed. He was charged with an offence under Rule HR 190B(4) which states,

“A trainer shall upon request produce such log book or register for inspection by the Stewards.” Mr Loone pleaded guilty to a charge that “he had failed to produce the log book when directed” and was fined \$300.

In addition, pursuant to Rule HRR195 Stewards disqualified CROOKWELL JAKE (placed sixth) from the race in question.

The Stewards also noted that at an Inquiry on 18 December 2019 at which Mr Loone had pleaded guilty to a charge pursuant to Australian Harness Racing Rules 190(1),(2) &(4) in that he presented HOCKYGREG to race at Globe Derby Park on the 10th of September 2019 not free of a prohibited substance, he was fined \$3,000, with \$1,500 to be suspended for a two-year period (on the proviso that the Trainer did not offend the prohibited substance Rules in that period). Having regard to the date of the Stewards finding in that matter and the date of this (the CROOKWELL JAKE) offence occurring within the period stipulated in that decision, the Stewards ruled the suspended amount of \$1500 was activated and now becomes payable.

GM Loch
Acting Chief Steward HRSA
1 January 2022

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