

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision:	16 June 2020
Stewards Panel:	R Brown (Chairman) S Shinn B Free
Name:	Taylor Ford
Track/Race:	Devonport Harness Racing Club/ Race 5 Collins Home Trainers Encouragement Pace
Date:	15 March 2020
Rule no:	AHRR 190(1) & AHRR 190B(1)
Charge(s):	Charge 1 - Present horse when not free of prohibited substance. Charge 2 - Failure to keep log book
Prohibited Substance:	Diclofenac
Inquiry Decision:	Charge 1 - Fine \$3000 (\$1500 suspended for two years) AHRR190(1).: Charge 2 - Fine \$200 AHRR190B(1)

FACTS:

A post-race swab taken from THE THUG NZ after winning Race 5 at the Devonport Harness Club meeting on 15th March 2020 (COLLINS HOME TRAINERS ENCOURAGEMENT PACE) was found upon analysis to contain Diclofenac which is a prohibited substance under the Australian Harness Racing Rules.

INQUIRY:

Stewards inquired into the presence of diclofenac in the post-race urine sample obtained from THE THUG NZ.

A certificate was firstly issued by Racing Analytical Services Limited and was then confirmed by The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory.

Stewards considered evidence tendered by Miss Taylor Ford (assisted by Mr Anthony O'Connell), RASL representative Paul Zahra and The Office of Racing Integrity regulatory veterinarian Dr Adam Richardson.

Stewards also considered evidence obtained in a stable inspection conducted at Miss Ford's training stables at Brighton.

Miss Ford was then charged and pleaded guilty to two charges. The first charge being a breach of AHHR 190(1) in that she as the trainer of The Thug NZ presented the horse to race and win Race 5 at the Devonport Harness Racing Club's meeting on the 15th March 2020 after which the post-race urine sample taken from the gelding was found upon analysis to contain diclofenac, which is a prohibited substance under Australian Harness Racing Rules.

The second charge Miss Ford pleaded guilty to was under AHRR190B(1) in that she failed to keep and maintain a treatment logbook.

DECISION:

In determination of penalty stewards took into account the following considerations:

- Charge 1 AHRR 190(1) Present horse free of prohibited substance at a race meeting
- Her guilty plea
- Evidence throughout the inquiry
- The nature of the substance detected
- The possibility of human contamination

- The importance of having races run free of prohibited substances and the negative effect such cases have on the racing industry
- Any penalty should act as a deterrent
- Miss Ford's personal circumstances
- Consideration was given to relevant precedents regarding diclofenac both in Tasmania and other racing states in all codes of racing.

Trainer Miss Taylor Ford was fined \$3000 of which \$1500 was wholly suspended for a period of two years on condition there are no breaches of Prohibited Substance Rules.

Charge 2 AHRR 190B (1) Failure to keep treatment logbook

- Her guilty plea
- Her record
- Precedents under this rule

Trainer Miss Taylor Ford was fined \$200

Acting under the provisions of AHRR 195 THE THUG NZ was disqualified from its first placing in The Collins Homes Trainers Encouragement Pace at the Devonport Pacing Clubs meeting on 15th March 2020