

## **TRNT Stewards Report – Monday 17 June, 2024**

**Panel:** D Hensler (Chairman), D Westover, M Hurley  
**Venue:** Stewards' Room, Alice Springs Turf Club

Stewards today completed an inquiry adjourned from the Alice Springs race meeting conducted on Sunday 16 June, 2024 involving the conduct of trainer Leah Walling Denton.

After hearing evidence, Ms Walling Denton pleaded guilty to a charge under AR140(1)(a).

The specifics of the charge being:

1. On 16 June, 2024 she was licensed as a trainer with TRNT and therefore classified as a horse handler under the Australian Rules of Racing - AR2
2. The Stewards held a reasonable suspicion given her actions that she was affected by a banned substance and after saddling and strapping FUTURE DREAMS in race 5, she was directed to provide a breath sample for analysis – AR22(i).
3. A banned substance under AR137(1)(c), namely alcohol was detected in that breath sample at a concentration greater than 0.05%

In determining a penalty, the Stewards took into account the following:

- Safety risks involved with licensed persons saddling and handling horses whilst under the influence of a banned substance
- The nature of the banned substance
- The low range detected level
- Her honest admissions, remorse and guilty plea
- Her personal circumstances and previous disciplinary history

Ms Walling Denton was fined the sum of \$1000.

She was advised of her right of appeal to the TRNT Racing Appeals Tribunal and that the fine must be paid within 6 weeks.

*Australian Rules referred to in this report.*

## **AR 2 Dictionary**

In the interpretation of these Australian Rules (and any race meeting held under them), unless the context requires otherwise, the words and phrases below have the meanings set out in this rule.

**horse handler** means any licensed person who handles any horse at any race meeting, trial, jump-out or in training. A horse handler includes but is not limited to stablehands, trainers, veterinarians, farriers and barrier attendants.

## **AR 22 Investigations and inquiries**

(1) Without limiting any other Stewards' powers, the Stewards have the following powers in relation to investigations and inquiries:

- (i) to take (or cause to be taken) any sample from any horse handler before or after handling any horse at any race meeting, official trial, jump-out or trackwork, where a Steward reasonably suspects that the horse handler is affected by a banned substance under AR 137(1).

## **AR 140 Offences where horse handlers use banned substances**

(1) A horse handler breaches these Australian Rules if:

- (a) a banned substance under AR 137(1) is detected in a sample taken from the horse handler;

## **AR 137 Banned substances in relation to horse handlers**

(1) Unless otherwise stated in these Australian Rules, the following substances and/or their metabolites, artefacts and isomers are specified as banned substances in horse handlers when detected in a urine sample at a concentration above the threshold level in brackets immediately next to the identified banned substance:

- (f) alcohol (at a blood alcohol concentration in excess of 0.02% (that is, 20 milligrams of alcohol in every 100 millilitres of blood) on a breath analysing instrument);