



27 May 2024

STEWARDS REPORT

Inquiry into the conduct of licensed foreperson rider Mr A Georgopoulos during trackwork at Thoroughbred Park on 2 February 2024 and into an analyst's report relative to a urine sample obtained from him on the same morning.

Racing NSW South-East Region
Inquiry conducted Thoroughbred Park

Committee Of Stewards: J D Walshe (Chairman), G E V Hargraves & X C Dalton

Stewards today inquired into the conduct of licensed foreperson rider Mr A Georgopoulos during trackwork at Thoroughbred Park on 2 February 2024 and into an Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) Trackwork Rider Testing Certificate relative to a urine sample subsequently obtained from him on the same morning.

Evidence was taken from Mr A Georgopoulos, support person and witness Ms T Kember and Ms N Hudson – Quality Manager, Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL).

Mr A Georgopoulos pleaded guilty to a charge under AR139(1)(a) of having provided a sample of his urine on Friday 2 February 2024 after he rode trackwork at Thoroughbred Park which upon analysis was found to contain substances banned by AR136.

Mr A Georgopoulos' license was suspended in full for a period of fifteen months to expire on Friday 2 May 2025, which was backdated to commence on Friday 2 February 2024, being the day on which he was stood down by Stewards.

Mr A Georgopoulos was further advised that under the provisions of AR141(1) Stewards would suspend the operation of the final three months of that suspension upon receipt of evidence that he had completed a satisfactory period of drug counselling meaning he may be eligible to resume riding trackwork on Sunday 2 February 2025.

In assessing penalty, Stewards considered the following matters:

- 1) Guilty plea
- 2) Mr Georgopoulos' first breach of the Rule in seventeen years of having been licensed in the racing industry.
- 3) Multiple banned substances being detected.
- 4) The extremely high level of banned substances detected.
- 5) The evidenced unsafe riding of Mr Georgopoulos on the morning of 2 February 2024 under the influence of banned substances.

Mr A Georgopoulos was told that prior to resuming working in the racing industry he would be required to appear before the Licensing Committee of Racing NSW.

Mr A Georgopoulos was advised of his right of appeal to the ACT Racing Appeals Tribunal.

JD Walshe

Chief Steward – Racing NSW South-East Region

Relevant Rule

AR 139 Offences where riders use banned substances

(1) A rider breaches these Australian Rules if:

(a) a banned substance under AR 136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider