

MEDIA RELEASE



THOROUGHBRED RACING SA

12 September 2014

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

PENALTIES – PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE CASES

The Rules of Racing make clear provisions regarding prohibited substances in horses. A substantial number of Rules deal with this aspect of racing and for good reason. A critical component relevant to the sport of horse racing is the expectation of participants to compete on a level playing field and those who wager on the product doing so with the knowledge that horses will compete on merit. A level playing field can only be supported by a rigorous, effective and equitable integrity regime.

Modern technology has progressed to the degree which enables analytical laboratories to detect substances which may traditionally not have been the case. Likewise, modern technology has also led to an increase in the presence of a number of “designer” and additional drugs/substances in the industry. Some drugs/substances are, appropriately so, prohibited in and out of competition; these include, but are not limited to EPO, growth hormones, synthetic proteins and peptides, selective androgen receptor modulators and venoms. In addition, the apparent prevalence of Cobalt has also raised concern in racing industry circles and remains topical.

Consequently, participants are advised to take notice of the fact that it is highly probable the level of penalties for any breach of the Rules relating to prohibited substances (whether in or out of competition and regardless of the substance) may be significantly different (increased) when compared to penalties traditionally and historically imposed. These increased penalties may include a suspension of licence or disqualification for a lengthy period. Each case will still be considered on its merits, however, we take the firm view that there is no place for prohibited substances in the industry and any penalty relating to breaches of this kind should reflect a zero tolerance approach. It should also be noted that this notice should not be read to derogate from or impact on the provisions of Australian Rule of Racing AR.196(5) – which deals with minimum mandatory penalties for certain breaches of the Rules.

The Rules of Racing are available on the TRSA and ARB websites and participants are urged to familiarise themselves with the relevant Rules.

---ooo000ooo---

For further information please contact –

Johan Petzer
Chairman of Stewards
P: 08 8179 9820
M: 0488 990 750
E: jpetzer@theracessa.com.au