

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 22/09/2021
Stewards Panel: D Tyson (Chairman) S Shinn B Plunkett
Name: Mr V Poke (trainer of Thoroughbred Sizzkye)
Track/Race: DRC Race 2 1880m MDN/CL1
Date: 20/06/2021
Rule no: AR 240(2)
Charge(s):

Mr Poke, as the trainer of Sizzkye, presented the mare to race when not free of a prohibited substance as evidenced by certificates from Racing Analytical Services and the Racing Chemistry Centre.

Prohibited Substance: Arsenic at above the prescribed threshold of 0.30 mg/l

Inquiry Decision: Mr Poke was fined the sum of \$2500 with \$1500 suspended for 12 months on provision that he does not re-offend under this rule within that time.

FACTS:

Sizzkye was presented, raced and won race 2 the MDN/CL1 1880 metres at the Devonport meeting on 20 June 2021. Subsequent to the race a urine sample was taken from the mare which upon analysis by Racing Analytical Services and the Racing Chemistry Centre was found to contain a prohibited substance under Prohibited list B, namely Arsenic above the permitted threshold.

INQUIRY:

An inquiry was conducted with documentary evidence tabled from both laboratories, as well as evidence taken from an inspection of Mr Poke's stables. Mr Poke tendered evidence on his husbandry practices as well as a study into the study of Arsenic contamination in horses from the University of Melbourne.

DECISION:

After taking into account his personal circumstances, guilty plea, length of time as a trainer and forthright evidence, Mr Poke was fined the sum of \$2500 with \$1500 suspended for 12 months on provision that he does not re-offend under this rule within that time. Stewards also took into account that the source of the positive sample was consistent with environmental contamination from CCA timber and that Mr Poke was aware of the potential problems associated with its use in racing stables.

AR 240(1) Under the provisions of this rule Sizzkye has been disqualified from its first placing in the MDN/Class 1 1880 metres at Devonport on 20/06/2021.