

## MR MICHAEL DOLTOFF - INQUIRY CONCLUDED

AUGUST 7, 2023

**On Thursday 3 August 2023 Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) Stewards concluded an Inquiry that commenced on Tuesday 20 June 2023 in relation to a report from the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) that Phenylbutazone, oxyphenbutazone and gamma-hydroxyphenylbutazone were detected in the post-race blood sample taken from AUSTRALIANA following its win in race 6, the DRAG BINGO @ CLUB PACEWAY JULY 9 PACE (1720 metres) conducted at Penrith on Thursday 23 June 2022.**

The 'B' sample was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) in Victoria.

Licensed Trainer Mr Michael Doltoff was present with his legal representative Mr Wayne Pasterfield and provided evidence to the Inquiry in relation to his registered training establishment and the horse AUSTRALIANA. In addition, the certificates of Analysis and evidence from HRNSW Assistant Regulatory Veterinarian Dr Annie Knox were presented to the Inquiry.

Mr Doltoff pleaded guilty to a charge issued by HRNSW Stewards pursuant to Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190 (1), (2) & (4) as follows:

AHRR 190. (1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

(2) If a horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1) the trainer of the horse is guilty of an offence.

(3) If a person is left in charge of a horse and the horse is presented for a race otherwise than in accordance with sub rule (1), the trainer of the horse and the person left in charge is each guilty of an offence.

(4) An offence under sub rule (2) or sub rule (3) is committed regardless of the circumstances in which the prohibited substance came to be present in or on the horse.

Mr Doltoff was disqualified for a period of 13 months to commence immediately.

In considering penalty Stewards were mindful of the following;

- The submissions of Mr Pasterfield on behalf of Mr Doltoff;
- Mr Doltoff's involvement in the harness racing industry since 1989/90 season;
- Mr Doltoff's fifth prohibited substance offence (Previous 1991, 2001, 2002 & 2007);
- Class 3 Prohibited Substance;
- Mr Doltoff's employment as an equine acupuncturist;
- The impact of a disqualification upon Mr Doltoff from a personal and financial perspective;
- Mr Doltoff's guilty plea;

Acting under the provisions of AHRR 195, AUSTRALIANA was disqualified from the abovementioned race.

Mr Doltoff has appealed the decision of HRNSW Stewards.

**For further information on this matter contact:  
HRNSW Integrity Department  
(02) 9722 6655**