



## Standardbred Official Ruling

Ruling Number 2577380

Licence No.: HP3A690

Date: March 18, 2024

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**IN THE MATTER OF THE *HORSE RACING LICENCE ACT, 2015*,  
S.O. 2015, c.38, Sched. 9;  
AND IN THE MATTER OF Scott FRIEND**

**WHEREAS** on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, Standardbred race horse Red Dirt Hot Shot (tattoo #4TP33) finished sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) in the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) race at Western Fair Raceway.

**AND WHEREAS** Scott Friend ("Friend") is licensed by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario ("AGCO") as an Owner and Trainer, (licence number HP32690). Friend was the owner and trainer of Red Dirt Hot Shot on February 27, 2024.

**AND WHEREAS** Red Dirt Hot Shot was selected to provide a pre-race TCO<sub>2</sub> blood sample, with those samples identified with Serial #492405819.

**AND WHEREAS** on Thursday, February 29, 2024, Racing Forensics performed a TCO<sub>2</sub> test on samples Serial #492405819. The confirmed analysis result was 37.3 mmol/L as indicated on Certificate of TCO<sub>2</sub> Analysis Certificate #00348. Racing Forensics provided the TCO<sub>2</sub> positive certificate to the AGCO on Friday March 1, 2024.

**AND WHEREAS** on Saturday, March 2, 2024, a TCO<sub>2</sub> positive inspection took place at Sterling Fisher Training Centre, Friend's current stabling location. During that inspection a medication cabinet was found. The cabinet contained various substances including two 500g boxes of baking soda as well as a labelled plastic bag. The label affixed to the plastic bag contained a prohibited performance enhancing non-therapeutic substance known as ITPP. The plastic bag was seized and placed in evidence bag #EA1242822. The evidence plastic bag was then sealed.

**AND WHEREAS** on March 4, 2024, Mr. Friend's licence was fully suspended pursuant to SB Ruling Number 2556444.

**AND WHEREAS** on March 15, 2024, Lab Analysis results of the contents in evidence bag #EA124882 revealed that no drugs or prohibited substances were detected in the sample.

**THEREFORE:**

SB Ruling Number 2556444 is rescinded and replaced with the within Ruling, being Ruling number SB 2577380

Friend is found to have violated Rule 26.02.01, as Friend did not take reasonable precautions and/or care to ensure that Red Dirt Hot Shot did not receive any drug that may result in a pre-race positive test, Rule 26.02.02 as he failed to protect or caused a horse trained by him to be inadequately protected, resulting in a positive test and Rule 26.02.03(d) as the level of TCO<sub>2</sub> in Red Dirt Hot Shot exceeded the levels set out in Rule 22.38(a).

Friend further violated Rule 6.20(b) as such it is conduct prejudicial to the best interests of racing.

**FURTHER**, Friend is found to have violated Rule 6.46.01(d), as he possessed a substance which was not accurately labelled and to have violated Rule 6.46.01(e), as the possession of the purported substance may adversely affect the integrity of racing.

**THEREFORE:**

In accordance with Rule 6.04, 9.08.02, 22.38.06 and Penalty Guideline Policy Directive 1-2018:

Friend is hereby issued a 90-day full suspension and a monetary penalty of \$5,000 in respect to the violations of Rules 26.02.01 and 6.20(b). The suspension is to be served from March 4, 2024 to June 1, 2024 (inclusive).

**AND FURTHER**, Friend is further issued a two-year full suspension and a monetary penalty of \$10,000.00 in respect to violations of Rules 6.46.01(d) and 6.46.01(e). The suspension is to be served from June 2, 2024 to June 2, 2026 (inclusive).

TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with Rules 6.13.01 and 9.07.01, all horses owned in whole or in part by Friend are suspended and not eligible to be entered to, or start in any race, during the suspension period. All horses may, with the consent of AGCO Racing Officials, be released to another trainer in accordance with Rule and 26.08.

FURTHER, in accordance with Rule 6.04 the following terms are added to Friend's licence:

1. Friend is required to complete the AGCO Equine Medication Use and Awareness Program before reinstatement.
2. Friend must attend a meeting with AGCO Veterinarian Services to discuss the effects of withdrawing water from a race horse prior to reinstatement.

By Order of



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Katherine Cunningham  
Director, Regulatory Compliance Branch