



## Standardbred Official Ruling

**Ruling Number** 2457954

**Licence No.:** HPY1530

**Date:** December 6, 2023

Woodbine Mohawk Park

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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 MATTHEW WILLIAM BAX**

On April 24, 2023, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario ("AGCO") was advised of a positive reading for the Class 1 substances codeine and morphine and their metabolites codeine-6 $\beta$ -Glucuronide, morphine-3 $\beta$ -glucuronide and morphine-6 $\beta$ -glucuronide, in the urine sample with Test Tag # 53 23096 005. The sample was obtained from the Standardbred horse "Match Meif You Can" (tattoo number 4VP35), which finished first (1st) in the third (3rd) race on April 6, 2023 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. At that time, "Match Meif You Can" was trained by Matthew Bax (licence # HPY1530) ("Bax").

**TAKE NOTICE** that Bax has violated rules 9.09(b), 26.02.01, 26.02.02, and 26.02.03(c) of the Rules of Standardbred Racing (the "Rules").

Bax is hereby fully suspended for a period of 1 year, in accordance with rules 4.02(i), 6.04, and 9.08.02 of the Rules and Policy Directive No. 1-2018. The suspension shall be served from December 21, 2023, through to December 20, 2024, inclusive. Bax is hereby also issued a monetary penalty of \$10,000.00.

**TAKE NOTICE** that additional equine drug violations contrary to the Rules may result in further monetary penalties, conditions, suspensions and/or revocation of licence.

All horses owned in whole or in part by Bax are not eligible to race during the above-noted suspension period, in accordance with Rule 6.13.01 of the Rules. Any horse trained by Bax may, with the consent of the AGCO Race Officials, be released to another trainer in accordance with rule 26.08 of the Rules and Policy Directive No. 2-2008.

"Match Meif You Can" is hereby declared disqualified from the third (3rd) race at Woodbine Mohawk Park on April 6, 2023 for all purposes except for pari-mutuel wagering, in accordance with rule 9.13 of the Rules. The revised order of finish is as follows:

Place	Horse Number	Horse Name
1st	4	MUSCLING VEGAS
2nd	1	HP EXTRA ICE
3rd	2	DIVINNE MAGIC
4th	5	SAVANNAHS DREAM
5th	3	SENIORITA SOLO
	6	MATCH MEIF YOU CAN - disqualified

All purse monies affected by the disqualification of "Match Meif You Can" shall be returned for redistribution within 15 days, in accordance with rules 9.13 and 18.08.01 of the Rules.

Bax is prohibited from accessing association grounds, including the "Winner's Circle", with the exception of the grandstand, while his licence is suspended, in accordance with rule 6.01(a) of the Rules.

Bax is required to complete the AGCO Equine Medication Use and Awareness Program, before reinstatement, pursuant to Policy Directive No. 1-2018.

BY ORDER OF




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Katherine Cunningham  
Deputy Registrar