



Standardbred Official Ruling

Ruling Number 1609599

Licence No.: HPE2792

Date: February 15, 2022

The Raceway at Western Fair District

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

On December 2, 2021, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario "AGCO" was advised of a positive reading for the Class 3 drug Cobalt, for the urine sample Test Tag 49 21323 004. The sample was obtained from the Standardbred Horse, "LAILA BLUE", (tattoo #5R800), which finished first (1st), in the fourth (4th) race on November 19, 2021 at Western Fair Raceway. LAILA BLUE was trained by Gordon McDonnell, "MCDONNELL" at all material times.

TAKE NOTICE that LAILA BLUE had a positive test for OXYMORPHONE on September 30, 2021. MCDONNELL was the trainer of record at the material time.

TAKE NOTICE that based on the above MCDONNELL is found to have violated 9.09(b), 26.02.01, 26.02.02 and 26.02.03(c) of the Rules of Standardbred Racing. In accordance with 6.04, 9.08.02 of the Rules of Standardbred Racing and Policy Directive 1-2018, MCDONNELL is hereby fully suspended for ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY (180) days (minus 63 days for time served between December 3, 2021 and February 3, 2022 for an immediate suspension). The full suspension runs February 4, 2023 to May 31, 2023, inclusive, and issues a monetary penalty of FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) dollars.

AND FUTHER TAKE NOTICE that MCDONNELL is also found to be in violation of Rule 6.53(a) of the Rules of Racing and is hereby fully suspended for a further THIRTY (30) days (June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023) and issued a further monetary penalty of TWO THOUSAND (\$2,000.00) dollars;

The suspension of MCDONNELL is effective for horses racing in the Province of Ontario. During the suspension, any horses owned in whole or in part by MCDONNELL, are ineligible to race. Sales or transfers must be met with the AGCO Race Officials' approval. Horses trained by MCDONNELL may be transferred to another trainer in good standing and in accordance with Policy Directive No. 2-2008.

In accordance with 18.08.03 of the Rules of Standardbred Racing, LAILA BLUE is hereby

declared disqualified for all purposes with the exception of Pari-Mutuel Wagering and all purse monies must be returned. The revised order of finish for Race 4, at Western Fair Raceway on November 19, 2021 is as follows:

1 st	#6	Manhattan Night
2 nd	#3	Settn A Precedent
3 rd	#5	Land of Paradise
4 th	#2	Release the Baby
5 th	#8	Buttermilk Hanover
6 th	#7	Catch An Ace
7 th	#1	Reys N A Rocket
	#4	Laila Blue – disqualified

The following terms are added to MCDONNELL's license: two years of probation commencing (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025, inclusive), pursuant to 6.04 of the Rules of Standardbred Racing and Policy Directive No. 3-2008:

1. The Licensee is required to complete the AGCO Equine Medication Use and Awareness Program before reinstatement;
2. The Licensee shall keep the peace and be of good behaviour;
3. The Licensee may be subject to a Notice of Proposed Order in addition to any penalty imposed by the AGCO Racing Officials for any breach of the terms of their license.

BY ORDER OF



Brent Stone
Director, Regulatory Compliance Branch