



In my view the starting point of the Stewards at around 12 months was too high. It is my view that the starting point should have been eight months. I would reduce that by half on account of the guilty plea, good character and the good record of the appellant and substitute a suspension of four months.

I order the refundable portion of the bond to be returned.

I order that the suspension of four months is to expire at midnight on Monday, 2 October 2017.

I note that in August 2016 Thoroughbred Racing SA published an article regarding cobalt for the information of the racing industry.

I also note that this is the first case of cobalt being found in the thoroughbred racing industry in South Australia.

In all the circumstances of this matter the penalty is appropriate.

However, I must warn the industry that, having been warned about the punitive risks associated with feeding excessive cobalt to horses, the penalty in this matter will not necessarily be reflected in future 'cobalt' cases coming before this Tribunal.