 **Written reasons for Ruling #11774 Dexamethasone Positive**

Certificate of Positive Analysis – Class 4 Drug – Dexamethasone

Race Date: Northside Downs, North Sydney, Nova Scotia, September 14, 2024

Horse – Big Boy Hill (1RP36), 7 year old brown gelding

Trainer – Joseph Nearing (OB735)

Test Results Returned: September 30, 2024

The Atlantic Provinces Harness Racing Commission received a certificate of positive analysis for a Class 4 drug Dexamethasone on Monday, September 30, 2024. The positive test was from a urine sample collected at Northside Downs in North Sydney, NS on September 14, 2024.

The Director of Racing contacted Senior Racing Judge Danny Mackinnon on September 30, 2024, and emailed Mr. MacKinnon a copy of the positive certificate. Mr. MacKinnon was the senior racing judge at Northside Downs on September 14, 2024.

Mr. MacKinnon confirmed the matching identification tags between the certificate of positive analysis and the urine test sample from the horse with the Racing Forensics test inspector on October 1, 2024. The horse identified was Big Boy Hill and the trainer was Joseph Nearing.

Senior racing judge MacKinnon provided the name of the horse and the trainer to the Director of Racing for the APHRC. The Director of Racing notified Mr. Nearing of the positive test for the Class 4 drug dexamethasone on October 1, 2024, and forwarded him the documentation confirming such.

Dexamethasone is a Class 4 drug under the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ACRI) Classification Guidelines. It is an approved veterinary drug for use in horses often used to control various types of inflammation

Pursuant to Rule 371(2)(a) the sanction for a Class 4 violation absent mitigating/aggravating circumstances is a 15–30-day trainer suspension and a $200 fine or a $1500 fine. The horse is suspended for 15 days regardless.

A hearing was held with Mr. Nearing and the judges at Northside Downs on October 5, 2024. Mr. Nearing opted to pay the $1500 and was re-instated on October 9, 2024. Big Boy Hill finished first in that race on September 14th 2024 and a purse adjustment will be made to everyone involved.