



## National Steeplechase Association, Inc.

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### STEWARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RULING

MAY 22, 2017

Pursuant to NSA Rule 8.2 and the Maryland Hunt Cup Stewards Ruling dated May 3, 2017, the NSA Stewards Advisory Committee conducted a hearing for trainer/owner Todd McKenna on May 16, 2017 regarding his actions at the Maryland Hunt Cup on April 29, 2017 where he was observed to have kicked his horse, SERENE HARBOR, in the belly while enroute from the barn to the paddock area. SERENE HARBOR subsequently exhibited unusual behavior while in the paddock by laying down and was subsequently scratched from the race upon recommendation by the official veterinarian. The Maryland Hunt Cup Stewards held a hearing for Mr. McKenna on May 2, 2017, determined that he had violated NSA Rules 11.1.F and 5.2.B.15, summarily suspended his licenses, and referred the matter to the Stewards Advisory Committee for further review and determination of the penalty.

The Stewards Advisory Committee hearing was conducted telephonically. Mr. McKenna was present and was represented by counsel. The Stewards Advisory Committee heard testimony from numerous witnesses, including the Hunt Cup Stewards, eyewitnesses to the incident, Mr. McKenna and witnesses on Mr. McKenna's behalf.

Based upon the testimony, which corroborated that Mr. McKenna did, in fact, kick SERENE HARBOR in the belly as alleged, the Stewards Advisory Committee affirms the Maryland Hunt Cup Stewards Ruling and finds that Mr. McKenna violated NSA Rules 11.1.F and 5.2.B.15. There is zero tolerance for the physical abuse of horses at NSA regulated meets.

For his violation of the NSA's Rules, the egregious nature of his conduct, the need to reaffirm that there is no tolerance for the physical abuse of horses and the need to deter such conduct by anyone now and in the future, and considering mitigation presented by Mr. McKenna, the Stewards Advisory Committee has determined that Mr. McKenna's 2017 NSA owner and trainer licenses shall be revoked effective immediately, that he may not apply for reinstatement until June 1, 2018, and that he must successfully complete an anger management program acceptable to the Committee as a condition of reinstatement.

Dwight Hall, Chairman  
Francis Abbott  
Duncan Patterson