



NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

400 Fair Hill Drive
Elkton, Maryland 21921
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STEWARDS' REPORT

RACE MEETING: Colonial Downs

DATE: September 5, 2022

WEATHER: clear

COURSE CONDITION: good
compaction: average: 90
moisture average: 23.1% vmc

CLERK OF SCALES: Jessie Garcia

STARTER: Harrison Young

STEWARDS: Pat Bovenzi
Jack Houghton
Tad Zimmerman

OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

First Race: *STEP TO THE BAR* was a pre-race vet scratch and placed on the Vet's List.

It had been decided that the start should be in post position order and starter Harrison Young thought it best to load the box from the outside rail. Leonel Reyes had his feet out of his irons and was facing the grandstand on the first try. Then Feargal Lynch kept his horse in the box and did not join the rest of the runners in taking another turn and was away first.

The Stewards interviewed Feargal Lynch after the race and he said that he had been told by the starter that he could remain in the box as his horse wanted to freeze. The Starter testified that Feargal Lynch had refused to listen but that he had told him he could stand in the box rather than follow the other runners in taking another turn. No action taken.

After the race, the Stewards met with Sean McDermott, the rider of the second placed *ROBERT'S LUXURY*. After watching the video of the race, Mr. McDermott acknowledged that he had hit his horse 7 times, with 6 in close succession. Under the HISA riding crop rule thus his is a classification 3 violation, 1-3 strikes over the 6-strike limit, as well as having been in increments of more than 2 strikes before allowing the horse to respond for at least 2 strides. He was informed by the Stewards that the fine would be \$250 for each violation, with a one day suspension, and 3 points, to expire after 6 months. It was agreed that the one day suspension would be served on September 15, 2022.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS:

Tad Zimmerman