Monday, November 2, 2026

NSA Hearing, Review, and Appeals Committee Ruling

The Appeal of Mark Beecher, Trainer

This matter comes before the National Steeplechase Association (hereinafter NSA) Hearing, Review, and Appeals Committee (hereinafter Committee) on an appeal by NSA licensed trainer, Mark Beecher, from a ruling of the NSA Stewards subsequent to the My Lady's Manor Steeplechase and issued on June, 11, 2026 with respect to the second race at My Lady's Manor on April 11, 2026. The said ruling followed a report from the University of California, Davis Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, the official laboratory to the NSA, of an adverse analytical finding with respect to the horse Tufton Avenue, to wit, the presence of 2-(1-Hydroxyethyl) Promazine Sulfoxide (hereinafter Acepromazine) in the sample taken from Tufton Avenue after the said race and of which Tufton Avenue was the winner. The Stewards' Ruling, which was issued after Mr. Beecher had availed himself of his right to have a B Sample tested by Industrial Laboratories (which confirmed the presence of 2-(1Hydroxyethyl) Promazine Sulfoxide), was to disqualify Tufton Avenue from all purse monies and to fine trainer Beecher $500.00. A hearing before the Committee was held, via Zoom, on October 20, 2026 and a continuation of the hearing was held and concluded on October 29,2026. .

Findings of Fact

1. The horse Tufton Avenue, trained by licensed trainer Mark Beecher, finished first in the second race at My Lady's Manor on April 11, 2026 and had blood drawn, post race, for drug testing as is the routine for all winners in NSA sanctioned races.
2. The blood was sent to the University of California, Davis Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory (the Laboratory), the official testing laboratory of the NSA.
3. The sample was given the number EQ8574.
4. Subsequently, the Laboratory reported an adverse analytical finding (aaf) for the drug 2-(1Hydroxyethyl) Promazine Sulfoxide.
5. Trainer Beecher availed himself of his right to have the B Sample tested to confirm the presence of the drug. He was given a choice of two independent laboratories and chose to have the B Sample tested at Industrial Laboratories in Denver Colorado (Industrial).
6. The results of the B Sample testing confirmed the presence of 2-(1Hydroxyethyl) Promazine Sulfoxide in sample number EQ8574.
7. On June 11, 2026 The Stewards who were on duty on April 11, 2026 at My Lady's Manor, issued a ruling, which was published on the official NSA website, disqualifying Tufton Avenue from all purse monies and fining Trainer Beecher $500.00.
8. A timely appeal to this Committee was taken on June 16, 2026 by Trainer Beecher on behalf of himself and Runnymoore Racing, Owners of Tufton Avenue.
9. In Trainer Beecher's 10 year career as a trainer under NSA rules, he has had a spotless record in all areas of the sport. In his long career as a rider in NSA sanctioned races he was known as a strong and fair competitor.

10. At the hearing held on October 20, 2026 and continued and concluded on October 29, 2026 Trainer Beecher, and his Counsel, Andrew Mollica, Esq., presented a defense centered around the deplorable condition of the stall to which Tufton Avenue was assigned; Beecher's statement that he had never possessed or used the drug in question; and the testimony of Dr. Stephen Barker which questioned the testing methods of the two laboratories that performed the testing in this case.

Conclusions of Law

1. NSA Rule 9.1A states: No horse may participate in any race with, nor carry in its body during the running of a race, any (i) forbidden substance, (ii) substance not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), (iii) adjunct bleeder medication, or (iv) a controlled therapeutic substance in excess of the maximum permissible level as specified in the ARCI Controlled Therapeutic Substances list as may be amended from time to time. A forbidden substance is any drug, or drug metabolite, which might affect the speed or performance of a horse. Also prohibited are any drugs, regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be, which might interfere with the detection of the aforementioned forbidden substance.
2. NSA Rule 9.1D states: A trainer of a horse found to have received such forbidden substance shall be subject to whatever penalty is assessed by the Stewards under any of the Rules, including reference to the Board or the Stewards' Advisory Committee. Said trainer may be fined and may be suspended for a period of up to one year for the first offense, said suspension to be served at any time at the discretion of the Stewards or the Stewards' Advisory Committee.
3. NSA Rule 9.1G states: Should the chemical analysis of blood, urine, saliva or other samples taken from a horse indicate the presence of a forbidden substance or any metabolite or derivative thereof, this shall be prima facie evidence that the forbidden substance has been administered to said horse in violation of these Rules.
4. NSA Rule 11.2A states: Any person found by the Stewards to have violated the above Rules shall have such penalty imposed upon them, and the Stewards shall take such other action in the matter as they may deem proper under any of the Rules, including reference to the Board or the Stewards' Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION

The rules of the National Steeplechase Association (NSA) make it abundantly clear, in Section 9.1 A through, G that a horse found to have run in a sanctioned race while carrying a forbidden substance or an amount of a permitted therapeutic medication over the "screening limit" must be disqualified from any placing and purse award gained in the said race. While we found the testimony of Trainer Beecher very compelling, we are constrained by the Rules to which we are bound.

Rule 9.1D authorizes the Stewards at any race meet sanctioned by the NSA to fine and suspend the trainer of any horse which tests positive in any race at that race meeting. As stated above, Rule 9.1G makes the presence of any forbidden or therapeutic drug, prima facie evidence that the forbidden substance has been administered to said horse in violation of these Rules. In this matter, the trainer and his counsel have failed to overcome the prima facie evidence produced by

the Stewards as to the presence of a forbidden substance in the blood of the horse Tufton Avenue.

It appears to the Committee that the Stewards who served in the stand at My Lady's Manor Races may have taken into consideration Trainer Beecher's sterling record over his ten year training career as well as his riding career in assessing the penalty. Rule 9.1D allows for fine and suspension for this violation. Under HISA rules the penalty would have been a $1,000 fine and 14 day suspension. We commend the Stewards on their restraint in this matter.

ORDER

AND NOW, this 2nd Day of November, 2026 It is the order of the Hearing, Review, and Appeals Committee of the National Steeplechase Association that the Ruling of the NSA Stewards dated June 11, 2026 and concerning the second race at the My Lady's Manor held on April 11, 2026 is, hereby, UPHELD.

Richard D Abbott

Cuyler H. Walker

Albert J. A. Young