

## Manawatu HRC 31 January 2020 - R1 - (Instigating a Protest) Chair, Mr T Utikere

### Rules:

[Rule 870\(3\) and Breaking Horse Regulations](#)

### Name(s):

Mr D Gale - Trainer of BULLER WHITEBAIT

### Facts:

Following the running of Race 1 (Central Energy Trust Handicap Trot 2500m), Information A10282 instigating a Protest was lodged alleging that horse number 1 breached the provisions of Rule 870(3) and the Breaking Horse Regulations in that "the mare broke in excess of 50 metres inside the final 200 metres".

Rule 870(3) states: "*Any horse which breaks from its gait shall promptly regain its proper gait*".

The relevant Breaking Horses Regulation states: "*(b) Any horse which breaks from its gait within the final 200 metres of any race and continues on in the break for a distance of 50 metres or greater, shall be deemed to be in breach of Rule 870(3) in that it has failed to regain its proper gait*".

The Judge's placings were:

- 1st (3) BOYZ INVASION
- 2nd (5) MACKALI
- 3rd (1) BULLER WHITEBAIT
- 4th (10) BELMONT'S GREATEST
- 5th (7) CAITLIN'S SURPRISE

The Owner of BULLER WHITEBAIT, Mr C Craddock, endorsed the Information as not contesting the protest. Connections of the subject horse were not in attendance as Mr Muirhead indicated that they were not required to attend.

### Decisions:

Using the head-on film, Mr Muirhead pointed out BULLER WHITEBAIT approaching the final 100 metres mark. It had broken shortly after this, and while it had eventually dropped back into its correct gait 5 metres short of the winning post, stewards alleged it had broken for some 70 to 80 metres. He submitted that the RIU were seeking the disqualification of the horse on that basis.

The head-on film clearly demonstrates what occurred over the concluding stages of the race. Our analysis of the head-on clearly shows that approaching the final 100 metres, BULLER WHITEBAIT broke for a minimum of 70 metres. In such a circumstance, we consider that disqualification must follow.

The protest is upheld, with the Committee ordering the disqualification of BULLER WHITEBAIT. The amended placings are now:

- 1st (3) BOYZ INVASION
- 2nd (5) MACKALI
- 3rd (10) BELMONT'S GREATEST
- 4th (7) CAITLIN'S SURPRISE
- 5th (2) LEESA CASTLETON

A direction for dividends and stake monies to be paid in accordance with the amended placings was also made.