

**National Steeplechase Association
400 Fair Hill Drive Elkton, Maryland 21921
(410) 392-0700**

STEWARDS REPORT

Race Meeting: Willowdale Point to Point
4th race - Apprentice Timber

Date: 10/17/2020

Weather:
Course Condition:
Moisture:
Compaction:

Clerk of Scales: Barry Watson

Starter: Chris Daney

Stewards: Gus Brown
Charles Fleischmann
Doris Paxson (Safety Steward)

Official Actions:

Between the 10th and 11th fence Grand Manan, ridden by Archie Macauley, went to the right of a beacon, thereby going off course. He then went left and crossed several other horses. He then pulled up.

The stewards reviewed the available video, but the tower camera only showed the time from the 10th fence to just before beacon in question. The drone did not have footage.

Macauley was interviewed by the stewards and initially claimed that he had been squeezed out by horses to his left. He was excused while the stewards reviewed the video and interviewed the patrol judge, who said that while there was traffic to Macauley's left, he was not forced off course. Macauley was called back up and when challenged about his original testimony changed his narrative. He then stated that Grand Manan was a big horse and difficult to handle. When they landed over the 10th, he was hard to control and went right, and when he started to pull him up, the horse went left.

The stewards determined that the incident was “accidental” and imposed no fine. As guidance to an apprentice, Macauley was counseled to be careful of riding an inside line on horses like Grand Manan. Macauley was also counseled to not present conflicting accounts as this was not helpful.

General course notes:

Willowdale should look into improving the ditch that runs from the woods to the pair of water jumps at the bottom of the stretch. This was an area where a horse sustained a fatal injury last year while running loose, and while it was treated when they redid the drainage in the area, it could be piped and covered to prevent an incident like last years from happening again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gus Brown
Presiding Steward