

Butler Banned For Five Years

Irish trainer [Gerard Butler](#) has been banned from racing for five years by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) over doping offenses. This was after the 47-year-old, who is based in Newmarket, admitted to seven charges at an inquiry after nine horses in his care tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid.

It was earlier claimed by the trainer that veterinary surgeons had assured him that Rexogin (which contains Stanozolol and is designed for human bodybuilding) was legal, but the British Horseracing Authority said he was culpable of an appalling breach of his duty to look after the interests of the horses in his care. During the hearing, Butler revealed that he had bought the Stanozolol online from the UK [Steroids Pharmacy](#) and purchased a preparation called Rexogin and not Sungate.

A few weeks ago, Butler had previously admitted to using Sungate, a steroid that is used for treating joint pain, but Butler revealed at the hearing that he had used Rexogin, which is 10 times more concentrated. It was heard by the BHA panel that the Irish trainer administered Rexogin to four horses using a method of injection reserved for qualified vets. The BHA panel remarked the behavior of Butler in administering the injections was consistent with the underhand and covert manner in which he purchased the drug and Butler's evidence revealed an appalling dereliction of his duty as a licensed trainer.

It was further disclosed by the BHA panel that Butler, by his own admission, kept no clear financial records or any invoice from the purchase of the Rexogin, he did not have the horses properly assessed prior to their treatment and made no recording in his medication records having injected the horses. The BHA panel also remarked that Gerald Butler used junior stable staff to help him who would not question his actions and deceived his senior stable staff and kept from them important information about the treatment given to the horses.

The BHA's director of integrity, legal and risk Adam Brickell said our position was that the most serious charges related to Gerard Butler's gross failure to look after the best interests of horses in his care and the rules are clear that the license holder, in this case Butler, is wholly responsible for the presence of prohibited substance in horses in his care and control. Brickell added that we taking this all into account summarized that the actions of Butler represented an appalling breach of his duty and amounted to conduct that was seriously prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct, and good reputation of [horseracing in Great Britain](#).

The Irishman is the second trainer to be banned this year by the British Horseracing Authority for doping horses after Mahmood Al Zarooni, who trained for Godolphin owner and Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who was guilty of administering anabolic steroids at his stables in Newmarket.

The ban of Butler will last until December 2018, and he has a period of 48 hours to arrange the relocation of his horses.