

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Matthew Gray

Date: 22 April 2026

Panel: Mr S. Heidke, Mr B. Tamer, Mr R Jackson

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Compliance Assurance Team Stewards conducted an inquiry into the human sample results provided by RASL regarding a sample provided by licensed jockey Matthew Gray at Deagon racecourse on 16 February 2026.

After considering the evidence in its entirety, including submissions made by Mr Gray, Stewards issued the following charges which read:

Charge 1:

AR 139 Offences where riders use banned substances

(1) A rider breaches these Australian Rules if:

(a) a banned substance under AR 136(1) is detected in a sample taken from the rider;

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

Mr Matthew Gray, as a licensed jockey with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission breached the Australian Rules of Racing when a banned substance was detected in a sample provided on 16 February 2026 while conducting trackwork.

Charge 2:

AR 232 Failure to observe processes and directions of PRAs or Stewards

A person must not:

(b) fail or refuse to comply with an order, direction or requirement of the Stewards or an Official.

Mr Matthew Gray, as a licensed jockey with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission breached the Australian Rules of Racing when failing to comply to a direction issued by Stewards on 16 February 2026 while conducting trackwork.

Mr Gray pled guilty to the charges and made submissions in respect of penalty.

In determining the matter of penalty, Stewards considered the following.

- Mr Gray's plea of guilty to the charges and his full admissions.
- Mr Gray's disciplinary history, noting (1) prior breach of the rule AR 139 (1)(a) .
- Mr Gray's current personal circumstance.
- The need to maintain the integrity of thoroughbred racing and to ensure that all jockeys are compliant with the use of banned substances.
- Relevant penalty precedents.
- The need for both specific deterrence to Mr Gray and general deterrence to other members of industry.
- The Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that in relation to

Charge 1:

The appropriate penalty to be a suspension of Mr Gray's licence to ride in races, barrier trials and trackwork for a period of 5 weeks.

Being mindful of time already served, Stewards ordered that the suspension commence as of midnight 25 April 2026 and expire midnight 5 May 2026.

Charge 2:

Acting under the provisions of AR283(5), a penalty is wholly suspended for a period of 2 years under the proviso that a breach of AR 232 does not occur within this time.

Mr Gray was advised of his appeal rights.