

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Isabella Rabjones

**Date: 14/9/2020**

**Panel: B Cooke, J Childs, K Daly**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into Apprentice Isabella Rabjones's riding of VINCIT in Race 8 at the Toowoomba Turf Club meeting on 15 August 2020.

On 15 August 2020, evidence was taken from Apprentice Rabjones and Trainer Mark Currie. The matter was adjourned to allow Miss Rabjones to be represented by her Master and to obtain a betting report into the race.

Stewards today considered further evidence from Apprentice Rabjones, her Master Mr Robert Smith and Mr Currie. The betting report on the race did not reveal anything of concern.

After considering all of the evidence, Apprentice Rabjones was issued with a charge under AR 129(2) which reads-

*A rider must take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that the rider's horse is given full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible place in the field*

The particulars of the charge being-

- (1) After leaving the 800m until the 400m, Apprentice Rabjones failed to apply sufficient pressure to VINCIT to maintain a position behind the leader, MISHANI APPEAL, when it was reasonable and permissible to do so;
- (2) Between the 400m and the 200m, Apprentice Rabjones, failed to ride with sufficient purpose and vigour to place VINCIT under pressure when it was reasonable and permissible to do so.

Apprentice Rabjones's actions as particularised, in the opinion of the stewards, failed to ensure that VINCIT was given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.

Apprentice Rabjones pleaded not guilty to the charge and made submissions in defence of the charge.

After considering these submissions, the Stewards found Apprentice Rabjones guilty of the charge.

When considering the matter of penalty, Stewards were mindful that Apprentice Rabjones has not been issued with a breach of this nature, her personal circumstances and relative inexperience as an Apprentice Jockey. having not faced a charge of this nature in her career as well as her inexperience as an apprentice. The Stewards panel recognised a need for a penalty to reflect that her riding fell well short of a reasonable standard. Stewards were also mindful of the penalty precedents and the negative impact such actions have on the perception of the industry and the serious connotations that flow from a breach of this rule.

After considering all the above-mentioned matters Apprentice Rabjones's licence to ride in races was suspended for a period of six weeks to commence at midnight 19 September 2020 and to expire at midnight 31 October 2020.

Apprentice Rabjones was advised of her rights regarding an Internal Review.