

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Patrick Sexton

Date: 22 September 2020

Panel: D Aurisch, W Hadley and A Turner

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission's Integrity Investigations Team (IIT) conducted an inspection of the registered stable address of licensed trainer Mr Patrick Sexton whereby an unapproved modified whip was in a vehicle belonging to Mr Sexton. The whip was subsequently confiscated by the IIT.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the findings of the IIT and, after considering evidence provided by Mr Sexton and Dr Bruce Young, the Stewards charged Mr Sexton with a breach of Rule 231(1)(a) of the Australian Rules of Racing.

Australian Rule of Racing 231(1)(a) provides:

A person must not:

- (a) *commit or commission an act of cruelty to a horse, or be in possession of any article or thing which, in the opinion of the Stewards, is capable of inflicting cruelty to a horse.*

The specifics of the charges being that Patrick Sexton, as a licensed trainer, had in his possession at his registered stable address an unapproved modified whip that, in the opinion of Stewards, was capable of inflicting cruelty to a horse.

Mr Sexton entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made brief submissions to the Stewards on penalty.

In determining penalty in relation to the charge, the Stewards considered the following:

1. Mr Sexton's plea of guilty at the earliest available opportunity;
2. the nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offending conduct, in which the whip had been modified by Mr Sexton by way of the attachment of a piece of wire to the tail of the whip, of which the Stewards deemed to be a very serious breach of the Australian Rules of Racing due to the significant impact upon the welfare of the horses that may be subjected to the use of the modified whip;
3. Mr Sexton's personal circumstances, including the number of employees currently at his stable (being approximately five (5) employees) and that he derives his income solely from the racing industry;
4. Mr Sexton's disciplinary history over a period of approximately forty (40) years;
5. Mr Sexton's refusal to provide frank and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry;

6. the penalty precedents for the offence (noting the absence of any precedents specific to the particulars of the charge); and
7. the need for the penalty to act as both a specific deterrent to Mr Sexton to reduce the risk of further offending and a general deterrent to the wider racing industry for the integrity of the racing industry to remain paramount.

The Stewards, having considered the above factors, determined the appropriate penalty was a monetary penalty in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Mr Sexton was advised of his rights to apply for an internal review of the decision pursuant to Chapter 6 of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld).
