

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Scott Sheargold

**Date: 15 October 2020**

**Panel: P Lane, C Warren & D Lane**

Queensland Racing integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into a report of an allegedly inappropriate text message sent, on 25 September 2020, from the mobile phone of licensed Jockey Scott Sheargold to the mobile phone of a licensed participant.

After hearing evidence from the parties involved and viewing the text message in question Stewards issued Jockey Sheargold with a charge under the provisions of AR228(b) which reads:

A person must not engage in:

(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.

The specifics of the charge being that Jockey Scott Sheargold did engage in improper conduct on 25 September 2020 by sending an inappropriate text message to the mobile phone of a licensed participant.

Jockey Sheargold pleaded guilty to the charge and made submissions in relation to penalty.

In determining an appropriate penalty, Stewards considered Jockey Sheargold's personal circumstances, his admission of guilt, and his clear remorse and embarrassment over the incident. However strong consideration had to be given to the nature of the offence and the potentially pernicious impact of its effect on the recipient. Stewards also considered penalty precedents for similar breaches, the negative impact breaches of this kind have on the sport, and the need for a penalty to serve as a deterrent.

Jockey Sheargold was subsequently fined \$2000 with \$1000 of the said fine suspended for a period of 2 years on the proviso Jockey Sheargold does not breach this rule or any similar rule during this period.

Jockey Sheargold was advised of his right to refer the matter to the Internal Reviewer.