

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Joshua Morrow

**Date: 4/11/2020**

**Panel: B Cooke, B McErlean**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today opened and concluded an inquiry into an incident that occurred in heat seven of the jump outs at the Toowoomba Turf Club on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Stewards took evidence from licensed trackwork rider Mr Joshua Morrow in relation to him striking his horse in the head with the whip whist in the preliminary of the event.

After considering the evidence put forward, Mr Morrow was issued with a charge of improper conduct under AR 228(b) which reads-

*A person must not engage in misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.*

The particulars of that charge being –

That during the preliminary of jump out number seven at the Toowoomba Turf Club on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, Mr Morrow did deliberately and forcibly strike the horse he was riding in the head with the whip.

Mr Morrow pleaded guilty to the charge.

When considering the matter of penalty, stewards were mindful that Mr Morrow had not been issued with a breach of this nature during his career, his personal circumstances being that the racing industry is his sole source of income and that Mr Morrow pleaded guilty to the charge. The stewards panel recognised a need for a penalty to reflect that the conduct in which Mr Morrow displayed fell well short of the reasonable standards and industry expectations. Stewards were also mindful of the penalty precedents and the negative impact such conduct may have on the perception of the industry.

After considering all the above mentioned matters Mr Morrow's license was suspended for a period of three calendar months, one month of which to be suspended for a period of two years under the condition that Mr Morrow does not re-commit an offence of this nature or under this rule within that period. Mr Morrow's

suspension is to commence at midnight 4 November 2020 and to expire at midnight 4 January 2021.

Mr Morrow was advised of his rights regarding an Internal Review.