

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Beau Appo

Date: 22/04/2021

Panel: C Allison and D Macklyn.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards inquired into an incident which occurred during the preliminary of Race 6 the MSP Photography Class One Handicap at the Rockhampton Jockey Club on the 13th of March 2021. Evidence of the incident was obtained by video replays of the preliminary, evidence tendered by witnesses and Jockey Mr Beau Appo.

After considering all the evidence, Mr Appo was issued with two charges under the provisions of AR228(b), which reads:

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

Charge One

The specifics of the first charge being that on 13 March 2021 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club, Mr Beau Appo a licensed jockey with QRIC, in the preliminary of Race 6 the MSP Photography Class 1 Handicap, conducted himself in an improper manner when striking his mount ISIS BRUMBY with his whip on eleven (11) occasions, including forward of the shoulder on the neck region and in the vicinity of the head on six (6) occasions.

Charge Two

The specifics of the second charge being that on 13 March 2021 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club, Mr Beau Appo a licensed jockey with QRIC, in the preliminary of Race 6 the MSP Photography Class 1 Handicap did conduct himself in an improper manner when striking his mount ISIS BRUMBY once with his whip on the hindquarter when dismounted.

Mr Appo pleaded not guilty to both charges.

After hearing all the relevant evidence Mr Appo was found guilty of both charges. Mr Appo forwarded penalty submissions on his behalf which Stewards took into consideration when assessing an appropriate penalty.

When determining penalty, the Stewards considered the following relevant points;

1. The seriousness of the charges and the effect on the image of racing.
2. The unnecessary, excessive, and improper use of the whip.
3. The need for penalties to serve as a general deterrent to illustrate to the entire racing industry that this type of activity will not be condoned.
4. Previous penalty precedents for breaches of this Rule.
5. Mr Appo's previous disciplinary record with no previous breaches of this Rule.
6. Mr Appo's lack of remorse for his actions.
7. Mr Appo's not guilty plea.

Charge One

Stewards imposed a two-and-a-half-month suspension of Mr Appo's jockey's licence to ride in races to commence on midnight the 1st of May 2021, and to conclude on midnight the 17th of July 2021.

Charge Two

Mr Appo's jockey's licence to ride in races was further suspended for a two-week period to commence midnight the 17th of July 2021 and to conclude midnight on the 1st of August 2021.

These suspensions are to be served cumulatively with a total suspension of three months.

Mr Appo was advised of his rights to an internal review.