

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Ricky Vale

Date: 23rd June 2021

Panel: J. Adams and C. Allison

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) stewards inquired into an alleged physical altercation between Licensed Trainer Mr Ricky Vale and three Rockhampton Jockey Club employees.

After considering all the evidence including witness testimony and video footage, Trainer Ricky Vale was issued with the following charges under the provisions of AR228(b), which reads: "A person must not engage in misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour."

Charge 1.

The specifics of the charge being that on the morning of 10 June 2021 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club, that Mr Ricky Vale, a licenced trainer with the Queensland Racing and Integrity Commission, conducted himself in an improper manner; following a verbal argument, physically assaulted a Rockhampton Jockey Club employee by pushing him in the region of the chest.

Charge 2.

The specifics of the charge being that on the morning of 10 June 2021 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club, that Mr Ricky Vale, a licensed trainer with the Queensland Racing and Integrity Commission, conducted himself in an improper manner; following a verbal argument, physically assaulted a second Rockhampton Jockey Club employee by pushing him in the region of the chest.

Charge 3.

The specifics of the charge being that on the morning of 10 June 2021 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club, that Mr Ricky Vale, a licensed trainer with the Queensland Racing and Integrity Commission, conducted himself in an improper manner; following a verbal argument, physically assaulted a third Rockhampton Jockey Club employee by headbutting him in the vicinity of the head, resulting in a fracture to his nose.

Charge 4.

The specifics of the charge being that on the morning of 10 June 2021 at the Rockhampton Jockey Club, that Mr Ricky Vale, a licensed trainer with the Queensland Racing and Integrity Commission, conducted himself in an improper manner; by verbally threatening the welfare of a Rockhampton Jockey Club employee.

Trainer Vale pleaded not guilty to all charges and made submissions in defence of each charge.

After considering these submissions, Mr Vale was found guilty of all charges

Penalty.

When considering an appropriate penalty, stewards view breaches of this kind very seriously, as it can have a detrimental effect on the image of racing, and penalties must serve as a general deterrent to illustrate to the entire racing industry that these activities cannot be condoned. Stewards also took into account relevant penalty precedents, Mr Vale's disciplinary history and plea.

Charge 1.

Monetary penalty in the amount of **\$1,000.00.**

Charge 2.

Monetary penalty in the amount of **\$1,000.00.**

Charge 3.

Stewards are of the opinion that a six (6) month disqualification was appropriate, but bearing the mitigating circumstances which included provocation, stewards order a period of **disqualification of four (4) months.**

Charge 4.

Stewards order a period of **disqualification of twelve (12) months.**

Acting under AR283(4)

- *Unless otherwise ordered by the person or body imposing the penalty, a disqualification or suspension imposed under subrules (1) to (3) is to be served cumulatively to any other suspension or disqualification.*

Stewards order the period of disqualification in charges 3 and 4 to be served concurrently with the period of disqualification to commence 1 July 2021 and to conclude 1 July 2022.

Mr Vale was advised of his rights of appeal.