

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Joshua Morrow

**Date: 24th January 2023**

**Panel: J Adams, G Goold and C Allison**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the circumstances arising from an inspection of the registered stable address of licensed trainer Mr Joshua Morrow by Integrity Investigations Team (IIT) stewards conducted on Saturday 31 December 2022 whereby an unapproved modified whip was discovered and seized by IIT stewards.

After considering evidence provided by the IIT stewards and Mr Morrow, QRIC Stewards charged Mr Morrow 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 charge being that Mr Joshua Morrow, 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 Morrow 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 Morrow's plea of guilty;
2. The serious nature of the offending, that being the fact the whip had been modified by way of the attachment of wire to the whip, of which the Stewards deemed to be a significant breach of the Australian Rules of Racing due to the welfare risk to horses that may be exposed to potential use of the modified whip;

3. Mr Morrow's personal circumstances, mainly that he derives his income solely from the racing industry;
4. Mr Morrow's previous disciplinary record;
5. Penalty precedents for the offence and;
6. The need for the penalty to act as both a specific deterrent to Mr Morrow to prevent any further offending, as well as a deterrent to any other likeminded individuals who may be tempted to engage in similar behaviour, serving as reminder that the integrity of the racing industry and the welfare of racing animals remains paramount.

The Stewards, having considered the above factors, determined the appropriate penalty to be a monetary penalty in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Mr Morrow was advised of his rights to an internal review of the Stewards decision.