

Stewards Report: William Pugsley

Date: 13th March, 2023

Panel: Clayton Warren & Tony Preston

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the audio broadcast across Regional Cast immediately following the running of Race 5 the C. & D.D.R.C. Class B Handicap over 1200m at Cunnamulla on the 4th March, 2023.

After considering all the evidence, Licensed Trainer Mr William Pugsley, who was engaged as an Official namely as Race-Caller, was issued with a charge pursuant to AR228(b), which reads:

A person must not engage in:

(b) Misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.

The specifics of the charges being that on the 4th March 2023 Licensed Trainer Mr William Pugsley, whilst acting in the capacity of Official Race-Caller, did misconduct himself by making disparaging and inappropriate remarks about a horse which raced in the C. & D.D.R.C. Class B Handicap over 1200m, its Trainer and another licensed person.

Mr Pugsley pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$1000, furthermore under the provisions of AR283(5) Stewards ordered \$600 of that amount to be wholly suspended for a period of two (2) years under the proviso that Mr Pugsley does not re-offend under this rule or any similar rule during that period.

In determining penalty Stewards considered Mr Pugsley's guilty plea, his forthright evidence, his personal circumstances in respect of both financial and health as well as his remorse. Stewards were also cognisant of relevant penalty precedent as well as the seriousness of the breach and the detrimental impact such breaches can and do have on the image of the industry within the wider community. Stewards also noted Mr Pugsley's experience as a race-caller and as such he ought to have avoided placing himself in such a vulnerable position to have had such comments broadcast to the public.

Mr Pugsley was advised of his right to an internal review.