

Stewards Report: Sariah Champkin

Date: 17 April 2023

Panel: Clayton Warren, Tony Preston & Emily Tickner

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into an incident which occurred at the Toowoomba Turf Club on the morning of the 14 April 2023, whereby a racially derogatory remark was directed toward Jockey Bradley Appo.

After taking written and verbal evidence from both Jockey Bradley Appo and Apprentice Sariah Champkin, as well as further evidence from witness Apprentice Landan Sykes, Apprentice Champkin, in the presence of her Master Trainer Maddysen Sears, was issued with a charge pursuant to AR228(e) which reads:

A person must not engage in:

(e) Conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person (“other person”) on any basis, including but not limited to, a person’s race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, special ability/disability, or sexual orientation, preference or identity, while the other person is acting in the course of his or her duties in the racing industry.

The particulars of the charge being that on the morning of 14 April 2023, during trackwork at Toowoomba Turf Club Apprentice Sariah Champkin did direct a racially derogatory remark toward Jockey Bradley Appo.

Apprentice Champkin was found guilty of the charge and subsequently fined the sum of \$3000, furthermore under the provisions of AR283(5) Stewards ordered \$1500 of that amount to be wholly suspended for a period of two (2) years from the 14 April 2023 under the proviso that Apprentice Champkin does not re-offend under this rule or any similar rule during that period.

In determining penalty Stewards were mindful of the negative impact breaches such as this have on the industry as a whole as well as industry participants. They were also aware of the need for any penalty to act not only as a specific deterrent to Apprentice Champkin but to the general industry cohort and to indicate to the industry that negative racially motivated comments are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Stewards also took into account Apprentice Champkin's clear record in relation to similar rules as well as her relative inexperience in the industry.

Additionally, Stewards liaised with Racing Queensland's Apprentice Training Team whom undertook to revisit training in relation to racial discrimination Apprentice Champkin had previously undertaken during the Track Rider Certificate III.

Apprentice Champkin was advised of her right of review.