

# Stewards' Report

## Stewards Report: Ronald Finch (Trainer)

**Date: 19 June 2023**

**Panel: P Gillard, K Lees & D Griffiths**

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the behaviour of Trainer Ronald Finch. Evidence was taken from Mr R Finch and Ms Thomson (Trainer), written notes and affidavits provided in relation to the incident and a Steward that officiated at the relevant meeting was also considered.

Mr Finch subsequently pleaded guilty to a charge under the provisions of AR 228(b) which reads:

### **Division 3 – Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing**

#### **AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing**

A person must not engage in:

(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;

The specifics of the charge being that following a Stewards inquiry, Mr Finch did conduct himself in an improper manner at Einasleigh Racecourse 8 April 2023 by engaging in a physical altercation with another licensee.

When considering an appropriate penalty, Stewards considered relevant penalty precedents and the seriousness of the charge and the need for a penalty to serve as a specific deterrent to Mr Finch and a general deterrent to the wider industry to illustrate that this type of conduct will not be tolerated. The panel also acknowledged Mr Finch's forthright evidence and that he was very remorseful about the incident.

Subsequently Mr Finch was issued the following penalties, a Suspension of his trainer's licence to train under the provisions of AR 228(b) for a period of eight (8) months with two (2) months wholly suspended under the provisions of AR 283(5) for a period of two (2) years and that he does not reoffend under a similar rule in that time. Further to that steward's order that a further suspension of two (2) months be applied provided that Mr Finch tender evidence of anger management counselling.

The suspension will commence at midnight 19 June 2023 and will expire at midnight 19 December 2023.

Mr Finch was made aware of his review rights.