

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Bradley Appo & Sariah Champkin

Date: 26 July, 2023

Panel: Clayton Warren, Tony Preston & Emily Tickner

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today conducted an inquiry into incidents which occurred on the morning of 1 July 2023 at Toowoomba Turf Club involving licensed Jockey Mr Bradley Appo and Apprentice Sariah Champkin during trackwork.

After hearing all submissions and taking evidence from a number of witnesses, as well as reviewing a veterinary report from Dr Bowden-Betts, Stewards issued the following charges:

Mr Bradley Appo

AR 131 Riding Offences

A person must not, in the opinion of the Stewards:

(a) Engage in careless, reckless, improper, incompetent or foul riding

The Particulars of the charge being that;

On the morning of 1 July 2023, whilst riding trackwork at the Toowoomba Turf Club, Mr Appo did, in the vicinity of the gap or crossing, ride in an improper manner by driving or urging his mount forward onto the heels of the mounts of Bree Wiblen and Sariah Champkin causing both mounts to become severely unbalanced and MOVE MONTANNA (Bree Wiblen) to sustain a laceration to the off-hind limb.

Mr Appo pleaded not guilty to the charge and made further submissions to that effect. After considering those submissions stewards found Mr Appo guilty of the charge.

In determining penalty stewards were mindful of the specific circumstances of the case, Mr Appo's record in relation to similar rules, as well as his personal circumstances and penalty submissions. Stewards considered relevant precedents, the negative effect breaches of this kind have on the image of the industry and also noted the serious nature of the breach and the need for any penalty to serve not only as a specific deterrent to Mr Appo but to the industry cohort as a whole. Additionally, stewards were mindful that safety of rider and horse is at all times paramount in all aspects of riding and any act/s by an individual which endanger horse and/or rider must be taken seriously.

Subsequently, stewards determined a three (3) month suspension of Mr Appo's licence in respect of all riding activities (Race-riding, Trials, Jump-outs and Trackwork) was warranted in this instance, to commence from the 26th July 2023, up to and including 26th October 2023.

Mr Appo was advised of his right to an appeal through the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.

Ms Sariah Champkin

AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interest of racing

A person must not engage in:

b) Misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;

The particulars of the charge being that;

On the morning of 1 July 2023, at Toowoomba Turf Club trackwork, Ms Champkin did misconduct herself by engaging in an altercation with Mr Bradley Appo whereby she made forceful physical conduct with Mr Appo in the vicinity of his face or head by way of an open palm strike.

Ms Champkin pleaded guilty to the charge and provided submissions in regard to penalty.

In determining penalty stewards were mindful of the specific circumstances of the case, Ms Champkin's guilty plea, her record in relation to similar rules, as well as her personal circumstances and penalty submissions. Stewards considered relevant precedents, the negative effect breaches of this kind have on the image of the industry and also noted the serious nature of the breach and the need for any penalty to serve not only as a specific deterrent to Ms Champkin but to the industry cohort as a whole.

Subsequently, stewards determined a two-week suspension of Ms Champkin's licence in all respects was warranted in this instance, to commence from the 26th July 2023, up to and including 8th August 2023.

Additionally, as a breach of AR228(b) had been confirmed, Stewards ordered that a previously suspended penalty in the amount of \$1500, which was suspended on 17 April 2023 under the proviso Ms Champkin not reoffend under the provisions of AR228 or any similar rule in a two (2) year period, should also be imposed.

Ms Champkin was advised of her right to an appeal through the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.