

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Ricky Vale

Date: 14 September 2023

Panel: Shane Larkins, Ethan Suli & Shikira Stehbens (Cadet)

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today inquired into the content of a Facebook post from licensed trainer Ricky Vale placed on his personal profile Facebook page on 08 August 2023.

After taking evidence from Mr Vale, he was found guilty of a charge under the provisions of AR228(d) which reads; "A person must not engage in: " publishing or posting on any social media platform or channel any material, content or comment that is obscene, offensive, defamatory, racist, threatening, harassing, discriminatory or abusive to or about any other person involved in the racing industry."

The specifics of the charge being, that the content within a Facebook post that Mr Vale published on 08 August 2023 was offensive and referenced the racing industry in general.

When determining penalty, Stewards were mindful of Mr Vale's Not Guilty plea, his blemish free record under the subject rule, his twenty-six-year involvement in the industry as a licence holder and that he had not materially named or "tagged" any specific individuals. Stewards also considered the negative impact of industry participants engaging in such behaviour and the need for a penalty to act as both a general and specific deterrent. Furthermore, usual penalties which have been issued in the past under similar circumstances were also considered.

Mr Vale was subsequently fined \$1000 with \$500 of the penalty wholly suspended for a period of twenty-four months on the condition that he does not re-offend under the same rule in that period of time.

Mr Vale was advised of his rights of appeal.