

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Dale Evans – Nic Me Some

Date: 1st February 2024

Panel: Tate Hudson & Ethan Suli

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today concluded an inquiry into Jockey Dale Evans' riding of NIC ME SOME in the Horizon Projects Benchmark 55 over 1200m at Mackay on 16 December 2023. Evidence was taken after the race from Jockey Dale Evans and Mr Kerrod Smyth, the trainer of the gelding. The inquiry was adjourned on this day to enable the Stewards to obtain betting records on the event for examination and to view the footage of the previous starts of NIC ME SOME. After examining the betting records and finding no integrity concerns within the report, the inquiry was able to recommence today.

Additional evidence was taken from trainer Kerrod Smyth on January 3rd, 2023 and jockey Dale Evans provided more evidence today.

After considering the evidence in its entirety, jockey Dale Evans was issued with a charge under the provisions of AR129(2) which states:

'A rider must take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that the rider's horse is given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.'

The charge and the particulars being that on the 16th of December 2023, in Race 4, the HORIZON PROJECTS BENCHMARK 55 HANDICAP, as the rider of NIC ME SOME, during this event;

- a. Upon entering the home straight when a run presented itself between the weakening LUCIA MARIA and the eventual winner DEEL WITH ME, he failed to show sufficient vigour to improve his position between those two runners when there was sufficient room, when it was reasonable and permissible to do so; and
- b. In the entirety of the home straight, failed to ride his mount with sufficient vigour and purpose when it was reasonable and permissible to do so.

Stewards were of the opinion that due to these actions particularised above, this led to NIC ME SOME not having the full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible place in the field.

Jockey Evans plead not guilty to the charge and submitted further information in his defence.

After considering these submissions, Stewards were of the opinion that the charge could be comfortably sustained and officially found jockey Evans guilty of the charge.

When assessing penalty stewards were mindful of the following factors;

- 1) The seriousness of the charge of AR129(2)
- 2) The specifics and elements of the charge
- 3) QRIC's Thoroughbred Penalty Guidelines
- 4) The precedents for AR129(2) and former rule AR135(B)
- 5) The need for a specific and general deterrent to ensure that all horses are afforded a fair opportunity
- 6) Disciplinary record and past breaches
- 7) Not guilty plea
- 8) Time spent within the industry and the experience level of the rider
- 9) Personal circumstances of Mr Evans

Subsequently, jockey Evans licence to ride in races was suspended for a period of four (4) months to commence on midnight 2nd February 2024 and to expire on midnight 2nd June 2024.

Jockey Evans was made aware of his rights to an appeal.