

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Cecily Eaton, Alisha Donald & Sophie Wilcock

Date: 25 January, 2024

Panel: Clayton Warren, Jim Childs & Emily Tickner

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today concluded an inquiry regarding matters related to the presence of a mobile phone in the female Jockeys room at Toowoomba Turf Club during a race meeting on 9 December 2023.

After taking submissions from Jockey Cecily Eaton, Apprentice Alisha Donald and Apprentice Sophie Wilcock and considering the matter Stewards issued the following charges and penalties:

Jockey Cecily Eaton

AR 229 Corruption, dishonesty and misleading behaviour

(1) A person must not:

- (a) engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing;

The particulars being that on 9 December 2023, during the course of a race meeting at Toowoomba Turf Club Ms Eaton did make a statement to an Apprentice Jockey suggesting she engage in a dishonest act and provide false and misleading information to Stewards regarding a mobile phone which was present in the female Jockeys room.

In determining penalty Stewards noted the following:

- The general circumstances of the breach particularly that there was no aspect of premeditation involved and Ms Eaton's actions rather representing a lack of judgement.
- The direct contribution Ms Eaton's actions had in false and misleading information being provided to Stewards.
- Ms Eaton's guilty plea
- Ms Eaton's good disciplinary record over some 25 years in the industry
- The need to both specific and general deterrence
- The importance of transparency and honesty in the relationship between Stewards and Licensees to ensure the integrity of the industry as a whole.

- Penalty precedents relating to breaches of AR229(1)(a) with respect to dishonest actions.

Stewards, having regard to the above, issued Ms Eaton a fine of \$500 which, under the provisions of AR283(5), was wholly suspended for a period of two (2) years under the proviso that Ms Eaton does not reoffend under this rule, or any similar conduct related rule.

Ms Eaton was advised of her right to an appeal.

Apprentice Alisha Donald

Charge 1: AR 229 Corruption, dishonesty and misleading behaviour

(1) A person must not:

- (a) engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing.

The particulars being that on 9 December 2023, during the course of a race meeting at Toowoomba Turf Club Ms Donald did make a statement to Stewards regarding a mobile phone and upon becoming aware that statement was incorrect soon after, she did then intentionally conceal that fact from Stewards.

Charge 2: AR 218 No transmission of certain information in certain areas at racecourses

(4) Without the permission of the Stewards, a person (including but not limited to a jockey) must not:

- (b) have in that person's possession in the jockeys' room;

any mobile telephone, tablet, radio transmitter, radio transceiver or any other appliance, apparatus, instrument or equipment capable of receiving or transmitting information.

The particulars being that on 9 December, 2023, Ms Donald did during the course of the race meeting have in her possession, in the female Jockeys room, a mobile phone.

In determining penalty Stewards noted the following:

- The general circumstances and seriousness of each breach
- Ms Donald's forthright evidence and guilty pleas to both charges
- Ms Donald's disciplinary record
- The need for both specific and general deterrence
- The importance of transparency and honesty in the relationship between Stewards and Licensees to ensure the integrity of the industry as a whole.

- Relevant penalty precedents relating to breaches of AR229(1)(a) with respect to dishonest actions and of AR218(4)(b).
- The principle of totality

Stewards, having regard to the above issued the following penalties:

Charge 1: A monetary penalty of \$1000. Along with a seven (7) day suspension off Ms Donald's license which was wholly suspended under the provisions of AR283(5) for a period of two (2) years under the proviso that she does not reoffend under this rule, or any similar conduct related rule.

Charge 2: A monetary penalty of \$500

Ms Donald was advised of her right to an appeal.

Apprentice Sophie Wilcock

AR 229 Corruption, dishonesty and misleading behaviour

(1) A person must not:

- (a) engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing.

The particulars being that on 9 December 2023, during the course of a race meeting at Toowoomba Turf Club Ms Wilcock did provide information to Stewards concerning the presence of a mobile phone in the female Jockeys room which she was fully aware was both false and misleading.

In determining penalty Stewards noted the following:

- The general circumstances and seriousness of the breach
- Ms Wilcock's forthright evidence and guilty plea
- Ms Wilcock's disciplinary record, noting a breach under the same rule in April of 2023
- The need for both specific and general deterrence
- The importance of transparency and honesty in the relationship between Stewards and Licensees to ensure the integrity of the industry as a whole.
- Relevant penalty precedents relating to breaches of AR229(1)(a) with respect to dishonest actions.

Stewards, having regard to the above issued the follow penalty imposed a monetary penalty of \$1000. Additionally, given a breach of AR229 has been confirmed, the stayed portion of \$300 from a previous breach must also be enlivened. Stewards also ordered a seven (7) day suspension off Ms Wilcock's license which was to be wholly suspended under the provisions of AR283(5) for a period of

two (2) years under the proviso that she not reoffend under this rule, or any similar conduct related rule.

Ms Wilcock was advised of her right to an appeal.