

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Bailey Wheeler

Date: 26 June 2024

Panel: P Zimmermann, J Adams, G Goold.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) stewards today concluded an inquiry into the activities and statements made by Apprentice B Wheeler prior to fulfilling his riding engagement on LADY OF LUXURY in Race 9, The Gordons Gin Gai Waterhouse Classic 1200m at the Ipswich Racecourse on 22 June 2024.

After considering evidence tendered by Mr Wheeler who was assisted by Mr Glenn Prentice General Manager Qld Jockeys Association, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing AR232(d)(i) which reads:

A person must not:

(d) while any investigator appointed by a PRA under AR 15(c) is exercising their powers, performing their functions or carrying out their duties:

(i) give any evidence at an interview, investigation, inquiry, hearing and/or appeal which is false or misleading.

The particulars of the charge being:

1. Mr Bailey Wheeler was, at all relevant times, an Apprentice Jockey licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and a person bound by the Australian Rules of Racing.
2. On Saturday 22 June 2024 Mr Wheeler attending the Ipswich racecourse for the purposes of fulfilling the riding engagement of LADY OF LUXURY in Race 9 GORDON'S GIN GAI WATERHOUSE CLASSIC (1200 METRES).
3. Prior to fulfilling this engagement he was interviewed by stewards regarding his activities prior to arriving on course.
4. The evidence provided when questioned by stewards on 22 June 2024, and by Mr Wheeler's subsequent admissions were false and/or misleading.

Mr Wheeler pleaded guilty to the charge and made submissions on penalty.

In determining an appropriate penalty, stewards considered Mr Wheeler's guilty plea, disciplinary history, and personal circumstances. Stewards were also mindful that breaches of this kind have a negative impact to the image of thoroughbred racing and a penalty must serve as both a specific deterrent to Mr Wheeler and a general deterrent to the wider industry to illustrate that these matters will result in the imposition of a significant penalty.

Stewards suspended Mr Wheeler's license to ride in Races and Official Trials for a period of 4 weeks to commence 28 June 2024 and expire 27 July 2024.

Apprentice Wheeler was advised that should he seek professional assistance, his suspension would be reduced by 1 week.

Mr Wheeler was advised of his appeal rights.