

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Dale Smith

Date: 12 July 2024

Panel: Mr J. Williamson, Mr P. Zimmermann

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into Facebook comments made by Jockey Dale Smith, commenting on a Racing Queensland Post on July 6, 2024.

Evidence was taken from Mr Smith who was subsequently charged under AR 228(d)

After considering the evidence in its entirety, including submissions made by Mr Smith, Stewards issued a charge under Australian Rule of Racing AR 228(d), which reads:

AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing

A person must not engage in:

(d) 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 were as follows:

On 6 July 2024, Mr Dale Smith made defamatory comments relating to a Sunshine Coast Turf Club employee on a Racing Queensland Facebook post.

Mr Smith pled not guilty to the charge however stewards were comfortably satisfied that the charge could be sustained and formally found him guilty.

In determining the matter of penalty, Stewards considered the following.

- Mr Smith's plea of not guilty to the charge.
- Mr Smith's submissions.
- Mr Smith's disciplinary history.
- Mr Smith's current personal circumstance.

- Relevant penalty precedents.
- The need for both specific deterrence to Mr Smith and general deterrence to other members of industry.
- The Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, Jockey Dale Smith was fined the sum of \$300, wholly suspended under the provisions of AR 283(5) on the grounds that he does not reoffend for a 2-year period.

Mr Smith was advised of his appeal rights.