

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Kirsty Mason

Date: 26/07/2024

Panel: Clayton Warren, Emily Tickner, Tony Preston & Fiona Hartford

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the authenticity of several Health Assessment Results Forms provided as part of licence renewal applications submitted by licensed Trackwork rider Ms Kirsty Mason. After taking evidence from Ms Mason and considering the matter in its entirety, Stewards issued Ms Mason with the following charges:

Charges 1 – 3

AR229(1) A Person must not

Engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing;

The particulars of the charges being:

1. Ms Mason was at all relevant times a licensed person registered with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
2. On 26/07/2022, 26/07/2023 & 21/07/2024 Ms Mason did submit Health Assessment Results Forms as part of her license renewals in those respective years, which were purported to have been completed by a General Practitioner at a Medical Practice.
3. Assessment of clinical records indicated that the particular General Practitioner purported to have signed those documents had not worked at that Medical Practice since approximately October 2021.
4. Further assessment of clinical records indicated that Ms Mason had not been a patient at that Medical Practice since July 2021.
5. Ms Masons conduct in having submitting those three (3) respective Health Assessment Results Forms was dishonest and/or fraudulent and improper.

Ms Mason pleaded guilty to all three (3) charges.

Charge 4

AR232 A Person must not

- (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. Ms Mason was at all relevant times a licensed person registered with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.
2. At inquiry on 26 July 2024, Ms Mason did knowingly provide false and misleading evidence to Stewards regarding the existence of a completed Health Assessment Results Form pertaining to her licence renewal application for 2024.

Ms Mason pleaded Not Guilty to the charge. After taking further submissions Stewards were comfortably satisfied that the charge should be sustained and formally found Ms Mason Guilty.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

- Ms Masons verbal submissions and her personal circumstances
- Guilty pleas (Charges 1-3)
- Not Guilty plea (Charge 4)
- Unblemished record over an extended time in the industry
- Specific circumstances of the breaches
- The objective seriousness of the breaches
- The need for general deterrence pertaining to the industry cohort as a whole
- The need for specific deterrence due to the repetitious nature of the breaches
- The effect breaches such as this have on the integrity and image of the industry
- Relevant penalty precedents

Ms Mason was subsequently issued with the following penalties:

Charges 1-3: Nine (9) months disqualification to commence effective immediately on 26 July 2024, up to and including 26 April 2025.

Charge 4: Three (3) months disqualification, to be served concurrently with the aforementioned penalty, and to commence effective immediately on 26 July 2024, up to and including 26 October 2024.

Stewards granted Ms Mason 7 days, to conclude at 5pm 2 August 2024, to remove herself from the ownership of any Thoroughbred racehorses of which she is currently in the ownership. Ms Mason was also advised regarding the prohibitions on disqualified persons pursuant to AR263.

Ms Mason was advised of her right to an appeal.