

Stewards' Report

Date:	25 March 2025
Panel:	Mr R Jackson (Chairperson), Ms Aleisha Turner, Mr Brad Tamer
Person:	Mr Luke MacDonald
Rule:	AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing
Charge:	Mr MacDonald, as a licenced Bookmaker with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, did engage in conduct which threatened another person while the other person was acting in the course of his or her duties in the racing industry
Penalty:	\$1,000.00 fine

On 25 March 2025, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry in respect of evidence received by QRIC regarding an incident that occurred on or around 4 January 2024 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club.

After considering all of the available evidence, including submissions made by Mr MacDonald, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to the Australian Rules of Racing as follows:

Charge 1: Issued pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing 228, which provides:

A person must not engage in:

(e) conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, special ability/disability, or sexual orientation, preference or identity, while the other person is acting in the course of his or her duties in the racing industry.

The particulars of the charge were as follows:

On 5 February 2024, Mr Luke MacDonald, a Bookmaker licensed with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, engaged in conduct which threatened another licensed bookmaker and directed abusive and derogatory words towards that licensed bookmaker whilst he was acting in the course of his duties in the racing industry.

Mr MacDonald entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made further submissions to the Panel in respect of penalty.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following;

- Mr MacDonald's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity.
- Mr MacDonald's disciplinary history, noting no prior breach of the Australian Rules of Racing;

- that holding a licence within the racing industry is a privilege, not a right, and it is the participant's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the applicable rules and further to comply with his/her obligations under the applicable rules;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr MacDonald and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents; and
- the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld).

Accordingly, the Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a monetary penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Mr MacDonald was advised of his right to appeal.