

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Mr Noel Callow

Panel: G. Goold, J. Adams, P. Zimmermann, A. Schofield

Date of Decision: 12 June 2025

Rules involved: AR228(b) – Improper conduct: physical altercation

On Wednesday 28 May 2025, Queensland Integrity Commission Stewards commenced an investigation into a report from Steward Simon Fletcher that following the completion of Race 6, a physical altercation had taken place in the male jockeys' room at the Doomben Racecourse between licensed jockeys Mr Noel Callow and Mr Kyle Wilson-Taylor.

After taking evidence from numerous riders including Mr Wilson-Taylor, Stewards adjourned the matter until such time that Mr Callow was available to be interviewed as he was required to leave the course to seek further medical attention due to being assessed by the club doctor as displaying signs of concussion.

On Tuesday 11 June 2025 the inquiry was resumed with both Mr Callow and Mr Wilson-Taylor giving evidence along with further evidence taken from Steward Simon Fletcher and licensed jockeys Mr Jake Bayliss, Mr Robbie Dolan and Mr Cody Collis.

Based on the evidence of Mr Callow and Mr Wilson-Taylor, along with the statements from witnesses such as Steward Fletcher and riders Bayliss and Dolan it was established that the following events transpired:

1. Following the running of Race 6 at Doomben on Wednesday 28 May 2025 both Mr Wilson-Taylor and Mr Callow presented to steward Simon Fletcher to weigh in for their respective rides in race 6.
2. Mr Wilson-Taylor proceeded to the scales to weigh in with Mr Callow positioned behind him awaiting his turn to weigh in.
3. Mr Callow then positioned himself in close proximity to Mr Wilson-Taylor that then resulted in Mr Wilson-Taylor making contact with Mr Callow in order to exit the scales.
4. Mr Wilson-Taylor has then made the comment "I'm not scared of you" to Mr Callow.
5. Mr Callow then proceeded to weigh in as Mr Wilson-Taylor then proceeded into the male jockey's room.
6. Upon completing being weighed in, Mr Callow has then proceeded to run into the male jockey's room in pursuit of Mr Wilson-Taylor.

7. Mr Callow has then made aggressive contact to Mr Wilson-Taylor from behind resulting in a physical altercation ensuing between Mr Callow and Mr Wilson-Taylor resulting in both Mr Callow and Mr Wilson-Taylor falling to the ground.
8. Shortly after falling onto the ground Mr Wilson-Taylor has then struck Mr Callow twice to the head whilst positioned on top of Mr Callow before other riders, along with steward Mr Fletcher, have then been able to separate Mr Callow and Mr Wilson-Taylor.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued a charge against Mr Callow pursuant to AR 228(b)

AR 228(b) Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing.

A person must not engage in:

(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;

The particulars of the charge:

On Wednesday 28th May 2025, at the Doomben Racecourse following the running of Race 6, you engaged in improper conduct after weighing in, you then proceeded to run to the male jockeys room in pursuit of Mr Kyle Wilson-Taylor, aggressively making contact with Wilson-Taylor from behind, resulting in both you and Wilson-Taylor engaging in a physical altercation in front of other licensed male riders.

Mr Callow subsequently pled guilty to the charge and via way of legal counsel made the following submissions regarding penalty that can be summarised as follows.

1. That any physical altercation between licensed riders is a serious matter—given the importance of upholding professional standards and ensuring a safe and respectful environment.
2. Jockeys compete in a highly charged and competitive environment. Emotions and tempers can flare. Here, both riders considered that the other had made errors of one kind or another in recent race-riding. Adrenalin runs high and momentary loss of temper can occur.
3. As quickly as the exchange escalated, it deescalated and was finished. It might have taken 15 or 20 seconds.
4. There is a big difference between exchanges such as occurred here being carried out in public – with all of the consequential detraction from the image of racing – and exchanges which occur privately. The conduct of the two jockeys here occurred in private (albeit in the jockey's room) and then it was over and done.
5. There was initiation of the altercation by Callow but that must be weighed against his subsequent restraint, his cooperation during the inquiry, early guilty plea, and steps taken toward rehabilitation.

6. This was not an incident thought out and planned beforehand. It was a momentary loss of temper, and any penalty should reflect that.
7. The conduct was out of character with Callow's conduct over recent times and, is unlikely to be repeated. He has shown insight by taking steps in seeking assistance with anger management. He has apologised in writing by his letter dated 31 May 2025.
8. A penalty at the lower end of the scale for misconduct of this nature is appropriate and would adequately reflect both specific deterrence and rehabilitative intent.
9. A penalty might be a fine or in combination with a suspended suspension or a short-term suspension (potentially with part suspended on conditions including continued anger management).
10. Any suspension greater than a short period would be over-reach and not warranted given that this was a momentary loss of temper in a highly charged environment and Callow has demonstrated genuine remorse and insight.

In assessing the submissions provided by Mr Callow's legal counsel and in determining what could be considered an appropriate penalty, stewards make the following findings.

The Panel finds that Mr Callow was the sole instigator of the altercation between himself and Mr Wilson-Taylor.

This happened firstly by Mr Callow positioning himself in close proximity to Mr Wilson-Taylor whilst in scales area resulting in Mr Wilson-Taylor contacting Mr Callow in order to leave the scales after being weighed in by Steward Fletcher.

Secondly, and as is the subject of the charge issued, by running after and aggressively making physical contact from behind to Mr Wilson-Taylor in the male jockey's room causing the physical altercation.

Stewards accept the evidence provided by both riders that there was tension between Mr Callow and Mr Wilson-Taylor leading up to the day of the altercation however that is no excuse for the actions taken by Mr Callow. Even if accepting of the agreed tension between both riders and Mr Callow's frustration after the race, his conduct was improper in running after and aggressively contacting Mr Wilson-Taylor from behind.

Whilst Mr Callow may have momentarily lost his temper, he had the opportunity whilst weighing in after Mr Wilson-Taylor to consider a different course of action than the one he took regardless how frustrated and angered he may have been after the race.

Though the altercation did indeed take place in the confines of the male jockey's room none the less, the incident occurred in a workplace and in front of numerous other licensed persons.

In instigating the physical altercation it had the potential to cause physical harm to a person, and in this instance Mr Callow suffered a concussion as a result of the altercation that he instigated and like any physical altercation this incident could have potentially been even worse than Mr Callow sustaining a concussion, the fact that a steward and other riders had to be involve in breaking up the altercation gave rise to potential injury to those involved in ending the altercation.

Stewards recognised that any revocation of licence would have a financial impact on Mr Callow however, offences of this nature are unacceptable and cannot be condoned by the industry or industry regulators, in this case QRIC stewards. It is conduct that has the potential to cause harm to individuals and is detrimental to the image of racing. Any such behaviour must be deterred.

Stewards acknowledge that any penalty arrived at by stewards is not about punishment but is to be of a nature that provides specific deterrence to Mr Callow to not repeat such conduct and to provide a general deterrence to the wider industry that conduct of this nature is not acceptable.

Given that Mr Callow has provided evidence that he has undertaken an anger management course along with his genuine remorse does go to his credit in determining an appropriate penalty. It is hoped that Mr Callow would not find himself before the stewards again for such conduct.

In all the circumstances, we have arrived at the following penalty

Suspension of your Jockeys licence in full for a period of 3 months **to commence midnight 28 May 2025 and to conclude 28 August 2025**. Stewards order that the suspension will be reduced to a period of 2 months on the provision of continued attendance with the QJA appointed Sports Psychologist and further completion of an anger management course to be completed within the period of suspension to conclude 28 July 2025.

Mr Callow was advised of his right to appeal.