

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Licensed Stablehand – Ms Natalie James

Date: 14th May 2025

Panel: R Neal (Chairman), and D Griffiths

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards today concluded an investigation into alleged breaches of Australian Rules of Racing 229(1)(a) by licensed Stablehand Ms Natalie James.

Charge

AR229 (1), A person must not:

(a) engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing.

The particulars being that on Sunday 6th October 2024, Ms James scratched two horses, namely MIDNIGHT BOOM and STRATHCONA from their engagements to races seven and eight respectively at Townsville race meeting to be conducted that day, when she was a person not permitted or authorised to do so. The Stewards specify this was a dishonest act.

Ms James pled guilty to the charge.

After consideration of all relevant factors the Stewards imposed a period of disqualification of four months to commence today, and to expire at midnight on Saturday 13th September 2025.

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following:

- Ms James admissions of the breach.
- The remorse demonstrated and co-operation during the currency of the investigation.
- Ms James's previously clear record.
- Specific circumstances of the breaches.
- The need to ensure that the sanction imposed appropriately operates as a means of deterrence and denunciation, and that it deters others who may contemplate breaching the Rules of Racing.
- The effect breaches such as this have on the integrity and image of the industry
- Relevant penalties imposed for breaches of Rule 229(1)(a)

Ms James was advised of her rights of appeal.