

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Ricky Vale

Date: 17th July 2025

Panel: Ethan Suli & Hayden Gillett

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry in relation to the runner DISCOVERED GOLD having not raced with its required gear (earmuffs) when it competed in Race 7: BM55 Handicap 1100m on the 26th of November 2024 at the Mackay Turf Club.

Submissions were made by trainer R Vale at the inquiry. It was established that DISCOVERED GOLD was presented to race with its correct gear being earmuffs, however these were subsequently removed by Mr Vale prior to the race. Mr Vale advised stewards that when having its first start for his stable and that he was of the opinion that DISCOVERED GOLD was to wear pre-race earmuffs, however when not having any available on the day, he elected to use blue racing earmuffs instead, and in the event these were not removed at the start due to not being the required red in colour, he elected to remove them himself prior to the mare proceeding to the barriers to avoid confusion for the barrier staff.

Stewards requested and examined the findings of a betting analysis report which was not indicative of any nefarious activity.

After considering all evidence in its entirety, stewards issued the following charge against Trainer Vale.

AR 206 Horses must only race in approved gear

(3) if permission is obtained under subrule (2), then, unless approval from or instruction by the Stewards is provided prior to acceptance time for a subsequent race, that gear is to be used without variation in subsequent races in which the horse participates.

The particulars of the charge being, at the Mackay race meeting held on the 26th November 2024, Ricky Vale the trainer of DISCOVERED GOLD, engaged to race in Race 7 BM55 Handicap 1100m, removed that runner's required gear, that being earmuffs, prior to the race without seeking stewards' approval.

In determining penalty, stewards took into consideration the following:

- Mr Vale's guilty plea
- Mr Vale's previous disciplinary record
- Mr Vale's own admissions
- Precedents for similar offending

Trainer Vale was fined \$200.

Trainer Vale was advised of his rights of appeal.