



Stewards Report: Trainer Jessica Kuhn

Date: 16 July 2025

Panel: Shane Larkins, Ethan Suli, Hayden Gillett

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into the conduct of licensed trainer Jessica Kuhn at the Rockhampton Racecourse on 22 July 2024 in regard to attempts and methods used to encourage BETTER STORM to enter the equine swimming pool located at the Rockhampton Jockey Club.

Ms Kuhn was unable to attend the original inquiry in January 2025 after suffering injuries in a vehicle accident resulting in her memory recollection being impacted.

Evidence was taken from Ms Kuhn and trainer Thomas Smith along with viewing of available CCTV footage of the incident.

After considering the evidence in its entirety, stewards issued a charge against Ms Kuhn under the following rule for improper conduct.

AR228 – Conduct

Detrimental to the Interest of Racing

A person must not engage in:

b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.

Stewards specified the improper conduct portion of the rule.

The specifics of the charge being:

1. Ms Kuhn was at all relevant times the holder of a general trainer's license with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.
2. In assisting to attempt to swim the horse BETTER STORM at the Rockhampton Jockey Club Pool on July 22, 2024, she did engage in improper conduct by reasons of the following actions, which were captured on CCTV Footage and detailed below:
 - a) She did strike the horse BETTER STORM on at least 7 occasions with a metal scraper in the vicinity of the hind legs; and

- b) She did strike the horse BETTER STORM on at least 33 occasions with a length of poly pipe with several of those occasions being with significant force,

Stewards say that these actions constituted improper behaviour.

Ms Kuhn entered a plea of guilty to the charge and after hearing submissions in relation to penalty, stewards considered the following.

- Seriousness of a breach of AR228(b).
- General Deterrence.
- Specific Deterrence.
- Ms Kuhn's genuine remorse.
- Ms Kuhn's cooperation during the inquiry.
- Ms Kuhn's personal circumstances.
- The negative impact such breaches have on the image of the racing industry.
- Relevant Precedents.
- Guilty plea.
- Disciplinary history, which reflected a clear record in relation to matters of this type over a 25-year period.
- Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) and the impact that any penalty may have on an individual.

Ms Kuhn's license to train was suspended for a period of three months, with the penalty wholly suspended for a period of two years under the provisions of AR283(5), on the condition that Ms Kuhn does not breach any conduct related rule in this period.

Stewards also imposed a fine of \$2500

Ms Kuhn was advised of her right to an appeal.