

# **DECISION**

## **Of**

### **Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards**

### **Regarding**

### **Ms Jana Piper**

**Delivered on:** 2 September 2025

**Panel:** Mr J Williamson (Chairperson), Ms A Schofield, Ms H Matthews.

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards convened an inquiry on 4 August 2025 in respect of a complaint lodged by trainer Mrs Belinda Mair regarding the conduct of licensed person Ms Jana Piper. As Ms Piper requested not to have this matter addressed in an inquiry setting, citing this to be a risk to her mental health, Stewards conducted individual interviews with all witnesses. After taking evidence from various witnesses and viewing recordings of the alleged incidents, Stewards preferred the following charges.

#### **Charge 1**

Australian Rule of Racing 228(b):

*A person must not engage in misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour*

The particulars of Charge 1 being that:

On 1 July 2025, you, Jana Piper, licensed trackwork rider, engaged in improper conduct in that you verbally abused trainer Belinda Mair using offensive, foul, and threatening language in the vicinity of the driveway to the stables of trainer Belinda Mair as part of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club training precinct in the trackwork hours of that morning.

**Plea:** Guilty

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#### **Charge 2**

Australian Rule of Racing 228(b)

*A person must not engage in misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour*

*The particulars of Charge 2 being that:*

*On 1 July 2025, you, Jana Piper, licensed trackwork rider, engaged in improper conduct in that you intentionally kicked trainer Belinda Mair in the left shoulder whilst mounted and in the vicinity of the driveway to the stables of trainer Belinda Mair as part of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club training precinct in the trackwork hours of that morning.*

**Plea:** Not Guilty

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### **Charge 3**

Australian Rule of Racing 228(b)

*A person must not engage in misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour*

*The particulars of Charge 3 being that:*

*On 1 July 2025, you, Jana Piper, licensed trackwork rider, engaged in improper conduct in that you entered the stable premises, of Belinda Mair's racing stable as part of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club training precinct and verbally abused trainer Belinda Mair using offensive, foul and threatening language towards licensed trainer Belinda Mair during the trackwork hours of that morning.*

**Plea:** Guilty

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### **Charge 4**

Australian Rule of Racing 228(b)

*A person must not engage in misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour*

*The particulars of Charge 4 being that:*

*On or about 2 June 2025, you, Jana Piper, licensed trackwork rider, engaged in improper conduct in that you used offensive and threatening language towards licensed jockey Minonette Kennedy stating words to the effect that "if you open your mouth to me again I will piss in it" whilst riding on the Sunshine Coast Turf Club training precinct during the trackwork hours of that morning.*

**Plea:** Guilty

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Stewards also considered evidence relating to an allegation from Mrs Mair that on the morning of 1 July 2025, Ms Piper had deliberately ridden her mount toward stablehand Ms Sharmay Bleakley whilst both participants were riding trackwork on the Polytrack at the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. Video evidence and witness statements were considered and whilst Stewards were satisfied that both riders had come into close proximity to each other, they could not be

satisfied to the requisite standard, given the seriousness of the allegation, that her conduct amounted to a breach of the Australian Rules of Racing and took no further action.

Stewards, upon considering the submissions of Ms Piper in relation to Charge 2, could not be comfortably satisfied that the charge had been proven and the charge was subsequently dismissed.

### **Penalty Submissions:**

The following submissions relating to penalty were provided by Ms Piper:

#### **Charge 1:**

1. Provocation and being accused of something she had not done.
2. Actions of Mrs Mair were antagonising and targeted.
3. The actions of Mrs Mair constituted "entrapment".

#### **Charge 3:**

1. Provocation and being accused of something she had not done.
2. Actions of Mrs Mair were antagonising and targeted.
3. The actions of Mrs Mair constituted "entrapment".

#### **Charge 4:**

1. Actions of Ms Kennedy were antagonising and targeted.
2. The actions of Ms Kennedy constituted "entrapment".
3. Reaction was caused by Ms Kennedy interacting with Ms Piper when she had been asked by Stewards to avoid interactions.

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### **Stewards Findings on Penalty:**

Stewards find that the conduct undertaken by Ms Piper was highly offensive, aggressive and threatened physical violence and harm toward both Mrs Mair and Ms Kennedy. Stewards considered that, given the significant aggression demonstrated and the length of time the abuse and threats continued toward Mrs Mair, Ms Piper's conduct fell well below the standard of behaviour expected of participants within the racing industry and that such conduct constitutes improper conduct.

Stewards do not accept that the comments from Mrs Mair prior to the conduct of Ms Piper amounted to provocation sufficient to justify or excuse Ms Piper's conduct. Neither the comments of Mrs Mair nor Ms Kennedy could be regarded as adequate explanations for the conduct of Ms Piper that followed. With respect to all three charges, the Stewards find that the conduct of Ms Piper in response to the comments of Mrs Mair and Ms Kennedy was unacceptable and offensive in the circumstances.

Stewards also find that the offences which occurred with witnesses present are to be considered highly embarrassing and offensive for both Mrs Mair and Ms Kennedy. Stewards have also considered the detrimental effect these offences have on the image of racing.

Any penalty imposed by the Steward must serve both as a general deterrent to the broader racing industry and as a specific deterrent to Ms Piper.

The Stewards took into account Ms Piper's guilty pleas and conduct during the inquiry, along with her personal circumstances and disciplinary history.

Relevant precedents were also considered, particularly matters that were similar in nature, being:

Racing NSW Decision Troy Thompson 12/1/15.

Racing NSW Decision D Hoad 24/10/15.

Racing NSW Decision S Quinn 7/10/14.

## **Human Rights**

In considering this matter, proper consideration is required in respect of human rights, and it is necessary to act compatibly with human rights in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld). The Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Ms Piper may limit or prevent her from earning a living from the racing industry and subsequently that the imposition of such a penalty may limit her human rights to own property (namely a licence), as well as the human right of privacy and reputation, the human right to recognition and equity before the law, and the human right to take part in public life.

The Stewards further acknowledge that a limitation upon a person's ability to participate in the racing industry, and earn income from that participation, may only be imposed where it is reasonably necessary to achieve the purpose of taking disciplinary action and there is no less restrictive and reasonably available way to achieve the purposes listed above, than to suspend a licence, disqualify a person from holding a licence, or warn a person off.

In the circumstances of this case, Stewards are satisfied that there is no lesser penalty that could be imposed that enables the purposes of taking disciplinary action against a licensee for a contravention of the rules of racing, which are to:

- maintain public confidence in the racing of animals in Queensland for which betting is lawful;
- ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing or betting under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld) or the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld); and

- safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld) or the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld).

Ms Piper's disciplinary record shows multiple incidents of conduct related offences:

1. **22 March 2019 (Sunshine Coast):** Fined under AR 228(a) Improper Conduct \$500 - \$250 suspended for two years.
2. **4 January 2011 (Deagon):** Fined under AR 175(j). Inquiry conduct. \$500.
3. **3 February 2011 (Deagon):** 4 month suspension AR 175(gg) False inquiry evidence.
4. **10 September 2010 (Ipswich):** 3 week suspension for misconduct. AR 175(q). Comments to Jockey K Pope
5. **29 July 2010 (Gold Coast):** Fined for misconduct AR175(q). \$300 wholly suspended. Comments toward Jockey D Griffin.
6. **13 July 2009 (Sunshine Coast):** Fined for misconduct AR175(q). \$800 - \$400 suspended for 12 months. Improper language toward starter and barrier staff.

This record demonstrates that Ms Piper has a longstanding history of misconduct, including incidents of prejudicial behaviour.

Ms Piper's disciplinary history is an aggravating factor that must be taken into account when considering penalty, as it indicates a failure to learn from prior sanctions and an ongoing disregard for the standards expected of a licensed person.

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### Penalty:

Charge 1: Stewards are of the view that a suspension is warranted in the circumstances. A suspension for a period of six (6) months reduced to five (5) months attributed to Ms Piper's guilty plea effective from midnight 2 September 2025, the date of this decision. Stewards further order that acting under the provisions of AR 283(5) that two (2) months of this suspension be suspended for a period of two (2) years on the condition that Ms Piper does not reoffend similarly during this period. Stewards also ordered that acting under AR 270 (1) and (3) that a condition of Ms Piper's suspension be that she is not permitted to enter upon any racecourse in Queensland Racecourses and the Pierce Avenue racing stables.

Charge 3: Stewards are of the view that a suspension is warranted in the circumstances. A suspension for a period of six (6) months reduced to five (5) months attributable to Ms Piper's guilty plea effective from midnight 2 September 2025, the date of this decision. Stewards further order that acting under the provisions of AR 283(5) that two (2) months of this suspension be suspended for a period of two (2) years on the condition that Ms Piper does not reoffend similarly during this period. Stewards also ordered that acting under AR 270 (1) and (3) that a

condition of Ms Piper's suspension be that she is not permitted to enter upon any racecourse in Queensland and the Pierce Avenue racing stables.

Charge 1: Stewards are of the view that a fine is warranted in the circumstances. A fine of \$2,000.00 reduced to \$1,500.00 attributable to Ms Piper's guilty plea. Stewards further order that acting under the provisions of AR 283(5) that \$500.00 of this fine be suspended for a period of two (2) years on the condition that Ms Piper does not reoffend similarly during this period.

**Stewards order that the periods of suspension be served concurrently, being a three (3) month suspension, to commence midnight 2 September 2025 and to conclude midnight 2 December 2025.**

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Against this Stewards decision Ms Piper is advised of her rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeal Panel.