

# 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 commenced inquiries on August 4, 2025 into 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**

AR 228 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 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**

AR 228 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 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**

AR 228 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 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**

AR 228 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 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

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 there was an element of intent in the actions of Ms Piper and took no further action.

### **Penalty Submissions:**

Stewards heard submissions from Ms Jana Piper in relation to Charge 2 and after considering these submissions did not proceed with this charge.

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 2:**

Stewards did not proceed with this charge.

#### **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 Finding 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 continued in relation to the abuse and threats toward Mrs Mair, these offences should be considered at the higher end of verbal assault, that constitutes improper conduct.

Stewards do not accept that the comments from Mrs Mair prior to the conduct of Ms Piper reactions were provocation to justify the conduct. Neither Mrs Mair nor Ms Kennedys comments could be considered sufficient to explain the conduct. With respect to all three charges the reaction and conduct from Ms Piper was most improper and completely unreasonable.

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 affect these incidents have on the image of racing.

The penalty issued by steward must act as both a general deterrence for the industry and as a specific deterrence for Ms Piper.

Ms Pipers guilty plea and conduct during the inquiries was considered, 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.

The Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) was also taken into account and the impact these incidents have on the effected participants along with the impact that any penalty may have on an individual.

Ms Pipers 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 Pipers 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 in relation to Ms Piper's guilty plea effective from midnight September 2, 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 Queensland Racecourses and or the Pierce Avenue racing stables.

Charge 2: Stewards did not proceed with this charge after considering the defence provided by Ms Piper as they could not be satisfied to the requisite standard that the charge could be sustained given the seriousness of the charge.

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 in relation to Ms Piper's guilty plea effective from midnight September 2, 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 Queensland Racecourses and or the Pierce Avenue racing stables.

Charge 1: Stewards are of the view that a fine is warranted in the circumstances. A fine of \$2000 reduced to \$1500 in relation to Ms Piper's guilty plea. Stewards further order that acting under the provisions of AR 283(5) that \$500 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 the periods of suspension to be served concurrently, being a three (3) month suspension, to commence midnight September 2 2025 to conclude midnight December 2 2025.**

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