

DECISION

Of

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards

Regarding

Mr Cameron Munro

Delivered on: 29 September 2025

Date of hearing: 25 September 2025

Panel: Mr Joshua Adams (Chairperson) and Mr Paul Zimmermann

Appearances: Mr Cameron Munro.

Charge : Australian Rule of Racing ("AR") 229(1)(a) states:

(1) A person must not:

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

Particulars of Charge: Mr Cameron Munro a licensed Stablehand with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, in contravention of Australian Rule of Racing AR229(1)(a) engaged in fraudulent behaviour in connection with racing.

1. Mr Munro was at all relevant times a licensed Stablehand with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.
2. As part of Trainer Linda Gersekowski's license renewal for the 2024/2025 racing season, prepared and fraudulently submitted a Health Assessment Results Form on behalf of Ms Gersekowski that was not completed by a Medical Practitioner.

3. Mr Munro in knowingly submitting a Health Assessment Results Form that was not completed by a Health Practitioner was fraudulent and accordingly in breach of AR229(1)(a).

Plea: Guilty

Penalty Submissions:

Stewards were presented with detailed written submissions from Mr Munro.

1. Mr Munro provided a written apology, accepted sole responsibility for submitting the form, and acknowledged the importance of medical clearances for participants who rode trackwork.
2. He submitted that Ms Gersekowski was not aware of his actions and noted that she was upset with him about the incident.
3. Mr Munro believed a valid medical existed and had been misplaced. He accepted that this did not excuse his conduct.
4. Mr Munro and Ms Gersekowski operate a small family stable with a limited number of horses, while also managing a lucerne farm affected by droughts and floods, as well as cattle and retired horses.
5. Mr Munro had undertaken away work on a two-weeks-on/two-weeks-off roster to support the household.
6. They have a young family with a child requiring full care, which significantly increased the family load when Mr Munro was away.

Stewards Finding on Penalty:

The Stewards accept the guilty plea, cooperation, expressions of remorse, and the personal circumstances advanced in mitigation. Those matters have been given proper weight. Notwithstanding mitigation, falsifying medical documentation is a serious integrity breach. The annual licensing and medical clearance process ensures that persons undertaking duties around thoroughbreds, particularly those who ride trackwork, are medically fit to perform their roles safely. Dishonesty in this framework undermines participant safety and erodes public confidence in racing.

An aggravating feature is that the forged document related to another licensee where no valid medical existed for the relevant season. The conduct was therefore not a misguided attempt to correct an error in misplacing a valid medical, it was a fabrication designed to mislead QRIC Licensing so that a person could continue to participate without the required clearance.

As stated by McGill DCJ in *Wallace v Queensland Racing* [2007]:

“Public confidence in racing is easily damaged, and must be protected by imposing penalties when conduct is shown to be prejudicial to the image of the sport.”

In *Waterhouse v Racing Appeals Tribunal* [2002] NSWCA 195, the Court emphasised: “Dishonest conduct in racing is conduct which is blameworthy and capable of undermining confidence in the industry.”

Further, in *Pollett v Racing NSW* (2021) NSWCATAD 152, the Tribunal observed: “It is sufficient if the conduct has a tendency to diminish public confidence in the integrity of racing, whether or not actual prejudice can be shown.”

In respect of comparative authorities, Stewards are satisfied that the appropriate penalty framework is one of disqualification. This is consistent with penalties imposed in cases involving dishonesty and falsification of medical documents:

- Goring (2025): 8 months disqualification for falsification of a medical.
- Johnston (2025): 4 months disqualification for falsification of a medical.
- *Marshall* (2025): 8 months disqualification for falsification of a medical.
- *Ross* (2021): 8 months disqualification for falsifying a medical certificate.
- *Sharrock* (2025): 9 months disqualification for repeated falsifications.
- *McKay* (2025): 9 months disqualification for multiple falsifications.
- *Wright* (2023, VRT): 12 months disqualification for forging a doctor’s signature
- *Schembri* (2025, VRT): 3 years disqualification for repeated falsification and false evidence

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 Mr Munro may limit or prevent a person from earning a living from the racing industry and subsequently that the imposition of such a penalty may limit a person’s human rights to own property (namely a licence), as well as the human right of privacy and reputation. 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* or the *Racing Act 2002*; and
 - Safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* or the *Racing Act 2002*.
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Penalty:

Stewards are of the view that a disqualification is warranted in the circumstances. A disqualification for a period of six (6) months reduced to three (3) months in relation to Mr Munro's disciplinary history and guilty plea, effective from the date of this decision commencing 29 September 2025 concluding 29 December 2025.

Further, stewards draw to the attention of Mr Munro Australian Rule of Racing AR 263 and the prohibitions on persons and their conduct while disqualified.

Against this Stewards decision Mr Munro is advised of his rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeal Panel.