

# **DECISION**

## **Of**

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

### **Regarding**

### **Mr Luke Tarrant**

**Delivered on:** 8 October 2025

**Date of hearing:** 8 September 2025

**Panel:** Mr Joshua Adams (Chairperson), Mr Paul Zimmermann, Mr Alexander Dowsett.

**Appearances:** Mr Luke Tarrant

**Charge :** Australian Rule of Racing ("AR") 232(h) states:

*A person must not refuse or fail to attend or give evidence at an interview, investigation, inquiry, hearing or appeal when directed or requested to do so by a PRA, the Stewards or a person authorised by a PRA or the Stewards*

**Particulars of Charge:**

1. Mr Tarrant was at all relevant times a licensed Jockey with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.
2. During a Stewards' Inquiry at Doomben Racecourse on 8 September 2025, Mr Tarrant refused to give evidence, when directed to do so by the Stewards, in relation to the Health Assessment Results Forms he submitted to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission licensing department between 2020 and 2025 in breach of AR 232(h).

**Plea:** No plea entered.

### **Procedural history and non-engagement:**

1. On 8 September 2025, the Stewards issued a charge under Australian Rule of Racing ("AR") 232(h) and directed Mr Tarrant to enter a plea by 12 September 2025.
2. On 30 September 2025, with no plea received, the Stewards found Mr Tarrant guilty of AR 232(h) on the evidence before the Panel and invited written submissions on penalty by close of business Thursday, 2 October 2025.
3. No submissions were received.

### **Stewards' Finding on Penalty:**

*The Stewards note at the outset that they were unable to base their decision on any submissions from Mr Tarrant. Despite being directed to give evidence at the inquiry and subsequently invited on multiple occasions to enter a plea and to provide submissions in mitigation on penalty, no plea was entered, and no written or oral submissions were received. Accordingly, the penalty has been determined in the absence of any mitigating material, on the evidence before the Panel and by reference to the protective purposes of the Rules, relevant appeal authority, and parity with comparable precedents.*

Mr Tarrants conduct is serious because it attacks the integrity framework that safeguards participant welfare and sustains public confidence in wagering. Licensed people are obliged to assist inquiries, not to decide what evidence they will give. Appeal authorities emphasise the protective purpose of sanction in this area.

As stated in the appeal of Joanne Hardy v Racing NSW 10 October 2022, Principal Member Beasley SC stated; "the purpose of imposing penalties for breaches of the Rules is entirely protective in nature, not punitive" Having regard to parity with refusal to attend or refusal to give evidence precedents that frequently attract disqualification where there is outright non engagement, the Stewards are satisfied that only a significant sanction will meet the needs of specific and general deterrence, reinforce compulsory cooperation with inquiries, and protect the image and interests of racing. Giving due weight to the seriousness of the defiance, the sustained non-engagement, and the significance of Stewards' investigatory powers to safety and integrity, the appropriate and proportionate penalty is one of disqualification.

This is consistent with penalties imposed in similar cases:

- Wayne Howie (2020) - Refused to attend inquiry - 12-month disqualification
- Lyn Tongue (2024) Failed to appear at stewards' inquiry - 12-month disqualification
- Emma Bickley (2019) - Refused/failed to attend inquiries - 12-month disqualification
- Daniel Smith (2019) - Refused/failed to attend inquiries - 12-month disqualification.
- Greg Barnett (2015) - Harness Racing NSW – failed to give evidence at an inquiry – 7 year disqualification

## 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 Tarrant 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*.

---

### Penalty:

Stewards are of the view that a disqualification is warranted in the circumstances. A disqualification for a period of twelve (12) months, effective from the date of this decision commencing 8 October 2025 concluding 8 October 2026.

---

Further, Mr Tarrant is advised that he will not be considered for re-licensing, notwithstanding the expiration of any period of disqualification, until he attends before the Stewards and provides evidence in relation to his Health Assessment Results Form.

Stewards draw to the attention of Mr Luke Tarrant Australian Rule of Racing AR 263 and the prohibitions on persons and their conduct while disqualified.

Against this Stewards decision Mr Luke Tarrant is advised of his rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeals Panel.