

DECISION

Of

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards Regarding Mr Alistair Barnes

Delivered on: 2 December 2025

Panel: Mr N. Torpey (Chair), Mr. W. Barr, Ms L. Bahr

Appearances: Alistair Barnes
Brendan Barnes

Charge: Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHR) 231(1)(e)
states:

*A person shall not
(e) assault
Anyone employed, engaged or participating in the
harness racing industry or otherwise having a
connection with it.*

Charge Particulars: On Sunday, 9 November 2025, following the completion of Race 1 at the Marburg Race meeting, Alistair Barnes, who was at all relevant times a licensed trainer, physically assaulted Brendan Barnes, a licensed driver, within the designated race day stall area. The incident occurred near other participants and officials, immediately after the horses had returned from the track.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty Submissions:

Careful consideration was given to the merits and submissions from Alistair Barnes including the following mitigating factors:

- The early guilty plea and cooperation with Stewards throughout the inquiry
- Genuine remorse and acknowledged wrongdoing
- Offence was isolated
- Clean disciplinary record in respect of similar conduct

Stewards Findings on Penalty:

The Stewards acknowledge Mr. Barnes cooperation, his guilty plea, the remorse expressed, his personal circumstances and his previous good record in relation to similar matters. These genuine mitigating factors have been properly considered in determining penalty.

However, the Stewards acknowledge the seriousness of the offence

In the Racing Appeal Panel decision in Callow (RAP – 170 decision 22 Sept 2025)

“Penalty decisions: The Queensland Racing Commission Thoroughbred Racing Penalty Guidelines identify the purposes of penalty under the Rules as being the maintenance of standards of integrity in the thoroughbred code through enforcement of the Rules of racing as well as the provision of general and specific deterrence by ensuring that the penalties imposed are sufficiently serious to discourage other participants and the individual offender from breaching the Rule or engaging in similar conduct in the future. Against this background, the imposition of a penalty involves a balancing of the severity of the offending, the need for deterrence, and the consideration of any mitigating factors. In a case such as this, relevant considerations may include the circumstances of the offending and the degree of moral blameworthiness of the offender- the more culpable the conduct the more severe should be the penalty from both a general and specific deterrence viewpoint. The disciplinary history of the offender would need to be considered, as would the offenders’ circumstances and the presence or absence of a plea of guilty”

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. Barnes may limit or prevent him from earning a living from the

racing industry and subsequently that the imposition of such a penalty may limit his 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 purpose of taking disciplinary action against a licensee for a contravention of the rule.

Penalty

Stewards determined that the trainers license of Alistair Barnes be suspended for period of four (4) months from midnight 2 December 2025.

Against this Stewards decision, Mr. Barnes was advised of his rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeal Panel.