



HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF CHARGES INTO THE CONDUCT OF LICENSED PARTICIPANT CLAUDIA
RATCLIFFE

**Racing NSW Offices
Druitt Street, Sydney
Via Videoconference**

21 February 2025

**Stewards: D R Hadley (Chair)
M W Cleaver**

Background

In January 2025, Racing NSW Integrity received a complaint in respect to the alleged conduct of licensed track work rider Ms Claudia Ratcliffe during track work at Kembla Grange Racecourse on 24 January 2025.

Racing NSW Investigators commenced an investigation and obtained statements from six (6) industry participants. Ms Ratcliffe took part in an interview where she made certain admissions.

On 14 February 2025, Racing NSW issued two charges against Ms Ratcliffe under AR228(b) and AR228(e).

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted a hearing to determine the charge issued against Ms Ratcliffe. A brief of evidence compiled by Racing NSW Investigators was tendered and oral evidence was taken from six (6) industry participants and Ms Ratcliffe.

Stewards considered the evidence and, as a result, amended the particulars of charge 1.

Charge issued against Ms Claudia Ratcliffe

Charge 1: AR228(b)

The details of the charge being that at 6:15am on 24 January 2024 during track work at Kembla Grange Racecourse, she engaged in improper conduct by directing improper language to industry participants.

Plea: Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Charge 2: AR228(e)

The details of the charge being that at 6:15am on 24 January 2024 during track work at Kembla Grange Racecourse, she engaged in conduct which vilifies or insults another person based on a person's race, descent national or ethnic origin.

Plea: Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Penalty

The following penalty considerations were taken into account -

- Guilty plea
- The contrition and remorse shown by Ms Ratcliffe and her willingness to accept responsibility for her conduct
- Objective seriousness of the conduct
- Ms Ratcliffe's personal and professional circumstances
- Principle of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image, interests and welfare of the thoroughbred racing industry

Charge 1 – 2 weeks suspension of licence reduced to 1 week (to be served wholly concurrent with Charge 2)

Charge 2 – 6 weeks suspension of licence reduced to 5 weeks

Having regard to her guilty plea and in addition to the orders in respect of concurrency for charges 1 and 2, as set out above, Stewards ordered that the 6 week suspension be reduced to 5 weeks. Additionally, Stewards acting under AR283(5) ordered that 1 week of this penalty be suspended for a period of 2 years, on the basis that she is not found to be in breach of a conduct rule during this time period.

Stewards ruled the total period of suspension be 4 weeks, to commence on 21 February 2025 and to expire on 21 March 2025.

Ms Ratcliffe was advised of her rights of appeal.



Relevant Rules:

AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing

A person must not engage in:

(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;

(e) conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person ("other person") on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, special ability/disability, or sexual orientation, preference or identity, while the other person is acting in the course of his or her duties in the racing industry

Division 4 – Penalties

AR 283 Penalties

Any person or body authorised by the Rules to penalise a person may in respect of any penalty imposed in relation to the conduct of a person and other than in relation to a period of disqualification or a warning off, suspend the operation of that penalty either wholly or in part for a period not exceeding 2 years, on terms they think fit.

D R Hadley
General Manager – Investigations
Racing NSW