



*INQUIRY INTO THE RIDING OF JOCKEY JAMES INNES JNR ON GREBINI IN RACE 3 – CLASS 1 & MAIDEN PLATE  
1900M CONDUCTED AT GOSFORD RACECOURSE ON 22 DECEMBER 2022*

**8 February 2023**

**Racing NSW Offices**

**Inquiry Room**

**Stewards:**     **S C Knight (Chairman)**  
                      **J J E Earl**  
                      **J B Marshall**

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Racing NSW Stewards today continued an inquiry opened on Thursday, 22 December 2022 in respect to James Innes Jnr's riding of Grebeni in Race 3 conducted at Gosford Racecourse on that day. Evidence today was taken from James Innes Jnr and Co-trainer Sterling Alexiou.

A written report from Craig McDonald, Racing New South Wales Manager-Wagering Integrity, in relation to the wagering activity on the race was also considered. The evidence provided by Craig McDonald did not reveal any integrity concerns with the race in question.

James Innes pleaded guilty to the following charge under AR129(2) for having failed to take all reasonable and permissible measures on Grebeni throughout the race to ensure the horse was given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field by reason of the following particulars.

1. After initially trailing Celestial Fury from the 1600m to the 1200m, he did commence to restrain Grebeni near the 1200m until approximately the 1000m, allowing Tekapo to cross his mount and obtain a position trailing Celestial Fury when it was both reasonable and permissible for him to hold his position to the inside of Tekapo and remain trailing Celestial Fury.
2. That between approximately the 325m and the 250m, he failed to ride with sufficient purpose or vigour in an endeavour to improve into a run that developed between Tekapo and About The Moon, when it was reasonable and permissible for him to do so.
3. As a result of his failure to ride Grebeni in a manner as detailed in particulars 1 and 2, Grebeni was not given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.

**Penalty**

**Charge: AR129(2) - 6 weeks suspension (reduced to 4 weeks suspension for guilty plea and good record)**

Having considered relevant matters in respect to penalty, including that this was the first occasion James Innes Jnr had been charged with a similar offence in 11 years of riding, his guilty plea and licensing history, his license to ride in races was suspended for a period to commence on Monday, 13 February 2023 and to expire on Monday, 13 March 2023.

**Relevant Rule**

***AR 129 Running and Handling***

*(2) A Rider must take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that the rider's horse is given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.*