



INQUIRY INTO THE HANDLING OF SUPER SLICK BY LICENSED JOCKEY BEN LOOKER  
IN RACE 7, THE TAB BENCHMARK 58 HANDICAP 1000M,  
AT BALLINA ON TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2021

**9 December 2021**

**Coffs Harbour Racecourse**

**Stewards Inquiry Room**

**Stewards: R W Loughlin (Chairman)  
M A Holloway**

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Racing NSW Stewards today concluded an inquiry opened at the Ballina Jockey Club on Tuesday 23 November 2021, in respect to Ben Looker's handling of *Super Slick* during Race 7 on that day. Evidence was taken from B Looker and Trainer Mr J Shelton. A written report from Mr J Dinopoulos, Racing New South Wales – Form & Betting Analyst, in relation to the wagering activity on the race, which revealed no integrity concerns, was also considered.

B Looker pleaded guilty to a charge under AR129(2) for failing to take all reasonable and permissible measures on *Super Slick* throughout the race to ensure that *Super Slick* was given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field by reason of all, or part of the following particulars:

- 1) That after shifting his mount to the inside of *Electric Dragon* leaving the 200m, he failed to ride with sufficient purpose or vigour in an endeavour to improve into running available between *Rule Breaker* and *Electric Dragon*, when it was reasonable and permissible for him to do so.
- 2) Inside the final 100m, he failed to ride his mount with any purpose or vigour in an endeavour to improve into running which continued to be available between *Rule Breaker* and *Electric Dragon*, when it was reasonable and permissible for him to do so.

### **Penalty**

Having considered relevant matters in respect to penalty, including that this was B Looker's second offence under AR129(2), B Looker's license to ride in races was suspended for a period of 4 weeks, reduced from 6 weeks for his guilty plea and other objective circumstances. B Looker's license to ride in races was suspended for a period to commence on Saturday 11 December 2021 and expire Saturday 8 January 2022, on which day he may ride.

### **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.*

**R W LOUGHLIN  
DEPUTY CHIEF STEWARD  
NORTHERN RIVERS RACING  
ASSOCIATION**