



INQUIRY INTO THE TACTICS ADOPTED BY JOCKEY KIRK MATHESON ON SLICE OF HEAVEN IN RACE 3 – COASTLINE POOLS BENCHMARK 64 HANDICAP, 900M, CONDUCTED AT NEWCASTLE RACECOURSE ON 2 OCTOBER 2021

15 October 2021

Taree Racecourse

Stewards Inquiry Room

**Stewards: J B Marshall (Chairman)
D L Carr**

Racing NSW Stewards today continued an inquiry opened on Saturday 2nd October 2021 in respect to Kirk Matheson's riding of Slice Of Heaven in Race 3 conducted at the Newcastle Jockey Club on that day. Evidence today was taken from K Matheson and Trainer Mr C Prosser. A written report from Mitchell Reid, Racing New South Wales Manager – Wagering Integrity, in relation to the wagering activity on the race which did not reveal any integrity concerns was also considered.

K Matheson pleaded guilty to the following charge under AR129(2) for failing to take all reasonable and permissible measures on Slice Of Heaven throughout the race to ensure that Slice Of Heaven 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 between approximately the 400m and the 300m, when Slice Of Heaven was held up behind All Stand and Tallis, he failed to shift Slice Of Heaven to the inside of All Stand to secure clear running when it was both reasonable and permissible to do so.

2) That near the 300m he shifted Slice Of Heaven to the outside of Tallis and attempted to improve between Tallis and Pick The Score where there was insufficient room to do so, resulting in Slice Of Heaven continuing to be held up from near the 300m until approaching approximately the 200m, when it was both reasonable and permissible for him to shift Slice Of Heaven to the inside of All Stand near the 300m to secure clear running.

3) That after shifting to the inside of Tallis approaching near the 200m, he positioned Slice Of Heaven behind All Stand until near the 150m, where it continued to be held up, when it was reasonable and permissible for him to shift Slice Of Heaven to the inside of All Stand near the 200m to secure clear running.

4) That after securing clear running to the inside of All Stand near the 150m and commencing to ride Slice Of Heaven along, he steadied Slice Of Heaven approaching the 100m and directed Slice Of Heaven to the outside of All Stand, when it was reasonable and permissible for him to continue to ride his mount along and improve to the inside of All Stand approaching the 100m.

5) As a result of his failure to ride Slice Of Heaven in a manner as detailed in particulars 1, 2, 3 and 4 Slice Of Heaven was not given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible place in the field.

RACING NSW – STEWARDS REPORT

Penalty

Stewards considered the following matters in respect to penalty.

1. Guilty Plea.
2. Frankness of evidence throughout inquiry
3. That this was Mr Matheson's second breach of AR129(2).

K Matheson'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. K Matheson's license to ride in races is suspended for a period to commence on Wednesday 20th October 2021 and to expire on Wednesday 17th November 2021, 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.

Jack Marshall

**Stipendiary Steward
Racing New South Wales**