



STEWARDS INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF LICENSED TRAINER MICHAEL LUNN AT DUBBO TURF CLUB

**Dubbo Stewards Room
Via Videoconference**

7 January 2025

**Stewards: D R Hadley (Chair)
M W Cleaver
S D Parkinson
X C Dalton**

Background

In December 2024, Racing NSW Stewards received a complaint in respect to the alleged conduct of licensed trainer Michael Lunn at Dubbo Turf Club.

Racing NSW Investigators commenced an investigation and obtained statements from six (6) industry participants based at Dubbo Turf Club. A video recording of the alleged conduct and photographs of a detached boundary fence was provided to Investigators. A physical inspection was conducted by Racing NSW Investigators.

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the alleged conduct of licensed trainer Michael Lunn which was alleged to have occurred over a three-day period. A brief of evidence compiled by Racing NSW Investigator Ash Tucker was tendered and oral evidence was taken from Mr Dar Lunn, Mr Michael Lunn, Racing NSW Investigator Ash Tucker and current industry participants.

Stewards considered the evidence and, as a result, issued two (2) charges against Mr Michael Lunn as detailed below.

Charges issued against Mr Michael Lunn

Charge 1: AR228(b)

The details of the charge being that between 6:30am and 7:00am on the 5 December 2024, he engaged in improper conduct by detaching the front boundary fence of Mr Dar Lunn at Dubbo Turf Club without permission. Furthermore, between 6:30am and 7:00am on the 5 December 2024, he engaged in improper conduct by detaching the rear boundary fence of Mr Dar Lunn at Dubbo Turf Club without permission. On each occasion, he did cause the previously secured property to become unsecure.

Plea: Not Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Charge 2: AR228(b)

The details of the charge being that between 6:00am and 6:15am on the 6 December 2024, he engaged in improper conduct by directing aggressive and improper language towards Mr Dar Lunn. Furthermore, a short time later, he engaged in improper conduct by directing a threat and using aggressive and improper language towards Mr Dar Lunn.

Plea: Not Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Penalty

The following penalty considerations were taken into account -

- Not guilty plea
- The lack of contrition and remorse shown by Mr Lunn and his unwillingness to accept responsibility for his conduct
- Objective seriousness of the conduct
- Previous breaches of relevant rules
- Mr Lunn'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 – 6 weeks suspension of licence

Charge 2 – 4 months suspension of licence

In addition to the above penalties, Stewards ruled that 2 weeks of the penalty for charge 1 would be served concurrently with charge 2. Accordingly, Stewards ruled the total period of suspension be **5 months, to commence on 14 January 2025 and to expire on 14 June 2025.**

Under the powers afforded by AR283(7), Stewards ordered the commencement of the penalty be deferred for a period of seven (7) days, however, during this period Mr Lunn is not to start a horse in a race.

Mr Lunn was advised of his rights of appeal.



Relevant Rules:

AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing

A person must not engage in:

- (a) conduct prejudicial to the image, interests, integrity, or welfare of racing, whether or not that conduct takes place within a racecourse or elsewhere;*
- (b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;*
- (c) improper or insulting behaviour at any time towards a PRA, the Stewards, a Club, or any official, employee, contractor or agent of any of them in relation to the relevant person's functions, powers or duties;*

Division 4 – Penalties

AR 283 Penalties

(7) A person or body authorised by these Australian Rules to suspend or disqualify any trainer may defer the commencement of the period of suspension or disqualification for no more than 7 clear days following the day the suspension or disqualification was imposed, and upon terms and conditions considered fit.

D R Hadley
General Manager – Investigations
Racing NSW