



INQUIRY INTO LICENSED STABLEHAND MR LEN HOLDSWORTH'S ALLEGED CONDUCT TOWARDS
RACEHORSE ANNUAL AT QUEANBEYAN RACECOURSE ON 17TH JANUARY 2022

3 February 2022

Via video conference

Stewards: C L Albrecht (Chairman)
S G Railton

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into a report provided by Racing NSW Investigators in relation to licensed stablehand Mr Len Holdsworth's alleged conduct towards racehorse Annual at the Queanbeyan race meeting on 17th January 2022.

Evidence was taken from Mr Holdsworth and Stewards also considered a brief of evidence provided by Racing NSW Investigators, which included video footage of the alleged incident.

Mr Holdsworth was charged with the following offence under the Australian Rules of Racing

Charge: AR228(b) – Conduct detrimental to the interest of racing

As a licensed stablehand, Mr L. Holdsworth did engage in improper conduct at the Queanbeyan Racecourse on the 17th January 2022, by striking the racehorse Annual on or around the rear of the horse with a lead rope, whilst attempting to place Annual into its raceday tie-up stall.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: \$2000, reduced to \$1500 for guilty plea, with \$750 suspended for a period of 12 months.

When determining penalty, Stewards believed the appropriate penalty for the offence was a fine of \$2000. In regards to Mr Holdsworth's guilty plea and other mitigating factors, Stewards reduced the fine to \$1500 and acting under the provisions of AR283(5) suspended \$750 of the fine on the basis that Mr Holdsworth does not breach any similar conduct related rule for a period of twelve (12) months.

Penalty

The Stewards considered the following matters when determining an appropriate penalty.

1. Mr Holdsworth's guilty plea
2. His personal circumstances
3. Forthright evidence at inquiry
4. Mr Holdsworth's disciplinary history

Mr Holdsworth was advised of his 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;

AR 283 Penalties

(5) 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.

**C L Albrecht
Stipendiary Steward
Racing NSW**