



## TRNT Stewards Report – Darwin Turf Club

Thursday 29 March 2018

Panel: D Hensler (Chairman), R Hamilton

On Monday 26 March, 2018 Stewards inquired into a complaint lodged by licensed foreperson Sarah Acornley relating to an incident involving jockey Michelle Hagley. Subsequently Ms Hagley was found guilty of a breach of AR175(q) with the specifics being that on Sunday 18 March, 2018 on the grounds of the Darwin Turf Club her conduct in allowing her infant daughter to be mounted with her on a racehorse was improper. Ms Hagley was fined the sum of \$500. In considering penalty, Stewards took into account that Ms Hagley had been previously cautioned in relation to this type of conduct on 6 February, 2018.

Jockey Michelle Hagley subsequently lodged a counter complaint against licensed foreperson Sarah Acornley and her partner, dual license holder Carl Spry in relation to similar conduct that she had been penalised for. This complaint was based on a collection of photographs posted on Ms Acornley's face book page which depicted their infant son also mounted on a thoroughbred horse. At an inquiry conducted on Tuesday 27 March, 2018 Ms S Acornley and Mr C Spry confirmed that they had taken the photographs and posted them on face book on various dates during 2015/16. They further acknowledged that the majority of the photographs had been taken on Darwin Turf Club property.

The Darwin Turf Club Track Regulations, in particular section 4.1 states:-

*“Only persons licensed as a jockey, apprentice/trainee jockey, approved track work rider or horse trainer (with permission to ride in licence conditions) are permitted to ride on Darwin Turf Club tracks and grounds”*

Following reported incidents of children being mounted on horses on the Darwin Turf Club property on the afternoon of 6 February, 2018 the TRNT Stewards issued 2 warnings to licensees and distributed a notification reinforcing to all track users of their obligations in this regard.

Ms S Acornley and Mr C Spry accepted that their actions were in contravention of this regulation and given the circumstances of the incident, in particular the historic nature of the offending, Stewards issued each with a caution and they were placed on notice that any similar type of conduct will result in further action being taken.