



TRNT Stewards Report – Saturday 13th June, 2020

Panel: D Hensler, D Westover, M Hurley, W Preston

Venue: Alice Springs Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today conducted an inquiry into a written complaint lodged by trainer Sarah Robbins in relation to the alleged conduct of fellow trainer Russell Bell in her presence and directed towards stable hand Jaidyn Viney in an incident at track work that morning at the Alice Springs Turf Club.

Stewards heard evidence from Miss Robbins, Russell Bell, Jaidyn Viney and registered owner Stephen Bennetts.

Subsequently Russell Bell pleaded guilty to a charge of improper conduct under AR228 (b). The specifics being that he did verbally abuse and threaten stable hand Jaidyn Viney at the entrance of his stables on Heath Road, Alice Springs.

In consideration of penalty of a penalty Stewards took into account the following factors

- The seriousness of the offence
- Licensees are entitled to participate in their training duties without being abused or threatened
- There was no provocation from neither party towards Mr Bell prior to his actions
- His previous breach of this rule in 2016
- His guilty plea and remorse
- His good overall record
- The penalty must serve as a specific and general deterrent

Mr Bell was fined the sum of \$1500. In accordance with AR 283(5) Stewards suspended \$1000 of this fine for a period of 2 years on the condition that he does not breach any similar rule relating to his conduct.

Mr Bell was advised of his rights of appeal to the NT Racing Appeals Tribunal.

Australian Rules referred to in this report:

AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing

A person must not engage in:

(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour

Division 4 – Penalties

AR 283 Penalties

(1) Subject to sub rule (3), a person or body authorised by the Rules to penalise any person may, unless the contrary is provided, impose:

- (a) a disqualification;***
- (b) a suspension;***
- (c) a reprimand; or***
- (d) a fine not exceeding \$100,000***

(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