



TRNT Stewards Report – Tuesday 14th July, 2020

Panel: D Hensler, R Hamilton, S Copelin

Venue: Darwin Turf Club Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today conducted an inquiry into a complaint lodged by jockey Raymond Vigar in relation to an alleged incident that occurred after the Darwin Turf Club race meeting on Saturday 11 July, 2020 involving licensed stable hand Guy Clarke.

Stewards conducted a video interview with Raymond Vigar. Guy Clarke appeared in person and gave evidence and stable hand Jessica Long was interviewed as a witness. Stewards also viewed CCTV footage of the alleged incident.

Subsequently Guy Clarke pleaded guilty to a charge of improper conduct under the provisions of AR228(b). The specifics were that in the opinion of the Stewards he did engage in improper conduct in that on the evening of 11 July, 2020 in the car park of the Silk's Club at the Darwin Turf Club he did physically assault licensed jockey Raymond Vigar by striking him in the head with his right hand.

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

- The violent nature and seriousness of the unprovoked assault
- The victim was hospitalised due to his injuries
- The injuries have impacted on the victim's ability to work in the short term
- The incident occurred outside a licensed venue and on the racecourse
- The conduct is prejudicial to the image and interests of racing
- Mr Clarke's guilty plea
- Mr Clarke's previous disciplinary record and personal circumstances
- Previous penalties imposed for cases of improper conduct in the Northern Territory
- The penalty must serve as a specific and general deterrent

Guy Clarke was disqualified for a period of 18 months.

Guy Clarke was previously fined \$2000 by the TRNT Stewards for improper conduct on 21 August, 2018 and on that occasion \$1000 of that fine was suspended for a period of 2 years. As this charge breached those conditions the Stewards therefore imposed the suspended \$1000 portion of that fine. This action was in accordance with the provisions of AR283(6).

Mr Clarke 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