



## TRNT Stewards Report – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

Panel: D Hensler, D Westover

Venue: Alice Springs Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today finalised an inquiry into the recent conduct of licensed trainer James Bell.

Mr Bell pleaded guilty to the following charges under AR232(h).

Charge 1 - specifics were that he did refuse to attend a Stewards inquiry at the Alice Springs Turf Club on Sunday 5 September, 2021 when directed to do so by the Stewards.

Charge 2 - specifics were that he did refuse to attend a Stewards inquiry at the Alice Springs Turf Club on Monday 6 September, 2021 when directed to do so by the Stewards.

In determining a penalty the Stewards took into account the following:

- Guilty pleas
- No plausible explanation for the conduct
- Disciplinary history
- Personal circumstances
- Penalty precedents for conduct related rule breaches
- Principles of totality

Mr Bell was disqualified for a period of 9 months on each charge. Under the provisions of AR283 (4) the Stewards ordered that 6 months of the term for charge 2 is to be served concurrently with the penalty imposed for charge 1. The total penalty is therefore a disqualification of 12 months.

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

Australian Rules referred to in this report:

**AR232 - A person must not:**

- (h) refuse or fail to attend or give evidence at an interview, investigation, inquiry, hearing or appeal when directed or requested to do so by a PRA, the Stewards or a person authorised by a PRA or the Stewards give any evidence at an interview, investigation, inquiry, hearing and/or appeal which is false or misleading**

**Division 4 – Penalties**

**AR283 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**

**(4) Unless otherwise ordered by the person or body imposing the penalty, a disqualification or suspension imposed under sub rules (1) or (3) is to be served cumulatively to any other suspension or disqualification.**