

Additional Stewards Report



Stewards: - J. Petzer (Chairman), M. Santoro, and C. Deakin

Thursday, 08 September 2022

Ryan Balfour

Stewards concluded an inquiry into the circumstances relating to alleged conduct on the part of licensed trainer Mr Ryan Balfour on Saturday 25 June 2022 at the Morphettville Racecourse.

Prior to the hearing Stewards considered evidence, which included written statements submitted by a staff member of the South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC) and a staff member of the security company engaged by the SAJC. Stewards also considered a written statement submitted by Mr Bob Holton, the SAJC Chairman relating to Ryan Balfour's alleged conduct.

The written statements were provided to Ryan Balfour who did not contest any submissions and/or allegations contained therein. In these circumstances Ryan Balfour was presented with a "Statement of Agreed Facts and Evidence" for consideration. Ryan Balfour did not contest any of the terms of the "Statement of Agreed Facts and Evidence".

In view of the agreed position on the facts and evidence, Stewards charged Ryan Balfour under the rules of racing with the following;

Charge: Under Australian Rule of Racing - AR228(b) - a rule which deals with misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour. The particulars of the charge being;

"That Mr. Ryan Balfour, a licensed racehorse Trainer with Racing SA for the racing seasons 2021/22 & 2022/23, on Saturday 25 June 2022, at the Morphettville Racecourse, and while present in the "Winners Bar" after the running of Race 9, engaged in improper conduct during the course of a discussion with the SAJC Chairman - Mr. Bob Holton, by directing expletives at him in a loud, abusive and aggressive manner, in the presence of, but not limited to, other racing participants."

Plea: Ryan Balfour pleaded guilty to the Charge.

In determining penalty Stewards had regard for Ryan Balfour's record in regard to breaches of rules relating to conduct, and noted that he had prior offences. Stewards also took into account the seriousness of the offence, individual and general deterrence and the need for strong penalties for breaches of this type. Stewards further considered his guilty plea, forthrightness, personal circumstances, and the fact that he is taking measures to prevent similar circumstances from occurring. Stewards also noted his contrition for his conduct, including an apology to Mr Bob Holton.

In all the circumstances Stewards imposed the following penalty;

Penalty - A fine of \$1500 reduced from \$2000 after applying a discount for mitigating circumstances.

Ryan Balfour was informed of his right of appeal.

J Petzer
General Manager Integrity