

Additional Stewards Report



RACINGSA

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 23 July 2022 at the Morphettville Racecourse.

Prior to the hearing Stewards considered evidence in the form of a written statement submitted by Dr Toby Koenig, the Racing SA Chief Veterinarian relating to Ryan Balfour's alleged conduct.

The written statement was 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 23 July 2022, at the Morphettville Racecourse, and while present in the "tie up stalls" after the running of Race 9, engaged in improper conduct by directing expletives at Dr Toby Koenig, the Racing SA Chief Veterinarian, in a loud, abusive and aggressive manner, and in addition made a rude gesture to him by holding both his hands up in the air, with the back of his hands facing him and with both middle fingers raised, in the presence of, but not limited to, other racing participants/officials."

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 Dr Toby Koenig.

In all the circumstances Stewards imposed the following penalty;

Penalty - A fine of \$3500 reduced from \$4000 after applying a discount for mitigating circumstances. Stewards further ordered that \$1000 of the \$3500 fine be suspended for a period of 2 years provided he is not found guilty of a conduct related matter during that period.

Ryan Balfour was informed of his right of appeal.

J Petzer
General Manager Integrity