

# Additional Stewards Report



Stewards: - J. Petzer (A/Chairman), M. Santoro, P. Ryan & S. Callanan

**Tuesday 27 & Thursday, 29 February 2024**

## Todd Balfour

Stewards concluded an inquiry, which was adjourned from Tuesday 27 February 2024, into the circumstances relating to alleged conduct on the part of licensed Stable Employee/Track Rider Mr. Todd Balfour, on Friday, 16 February 2024 at the Kangaroo Island Racecourse. The inquiry was adjourned to allow Mr. Todd Balfour an opportunity to be accompanied by a support person at the resumption of the inquiry. It is noted that Trainer Mr. John Hyam attended as a support person with Mr. Balfour. Stewards heard evidence from Mr. Todd Balfour, the Racing SA Compliance Officer, and two other racing participants who were present when the alleged conduct occurred.

After considering the evidence Stewards charged Mr. Todd Balfour under the provisions of **AR228(b)**, a rule which deals with misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.

The particulars of the charge being that Mr. Todd Balfour, a licensed Stable Employee/Track Rider for the racing season 2023/24, engaged in improper conduct at the Kangaroo Island racecourse on Friday 16 February 2024, the improper conduct being that;

At approximately 7.00pm that day, while the Racing SA Compliance Officer was conducting breathalyser testing at the request of a number of participants present at the racecourse, he approached the Racing SA Compliance Officer from behind and without his consent pulled his pants down and in doing so fully exposed him from the waist down to numerous parties present.

**Plea:** Mr. Todd Balfour pleaded guilty to the charge.

**Finding:** On a balance of the evidence Stewards found Mr. Todd Balfour guilty of the charge.

In determining penalty Stewards had regard for Mr. Todd Balfour's record and while noting that he had some prior offences for misconduct, the historical nature of these matters did not weigh as aggravating factors. Stewards also had regard for his forthrightness at the inquiry, his longstanding involvement in the industry, his personal circumstances and the fact that he showed remorse for his conduct which included an apology to the Racing SA Compliance Officer. However, Stewards also considered the serious nature of the conduct, the resultant distress caused to an official, and that objectively viewed, by any reasonable person, such conduct would be considered reprehensible and extremely inappropriate. Stewards also had regard for individual and general deterrence and further had regard for the fact that punishment is also an element in determining penalty for breaches of the rules of racing.

In all the circumstances Stewards imposed the following penalty;

**Penalty** - A **disqualification** for a period of **five (5) years**, reduced from ten (10) years, after considering Mr. Balfour's guilty plea and his personal circumstances. The disqualification period to commence effective midnight Thursday 29 February 2024, and to expire at midnight on 28 February 2029.

Mr. Todd Balfour was informed of his right of appeal.

**J Petzer**  
**General Manager Integrity**