

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

- Date of Decision:** Sunday, 4th July 2021
- Stewards Panel:** B A Free (Chair), R Brown, A Harding
- Name:** Ms J Russell
- Track/Race:** Tasmanian Racing Club, Ladbrokes Park (Elwick)
- Date:** Friday 8th January, 2021
- Rule no:** AR228 - Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing
A person must not engage in:
(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;
- Charge(s):** The particulars of the charge were that Ms Russell approached Mr Brunton in the mounting yard at the Tasmanian Turf Club meeting on the 8th January 2021 and instigated a verbal confrontation with Mr Brunton prior to a race being conducted.
- Inquiry Decision:** Ms J Russell pleaded guilty to a charge under AR228(b). Ms Russell was fined the sum of \$200, wholly suspended for a period of 12 months under the provision she does not re-offend under this rule. Commencing from the conclusion of the inquiry on the 4th July, 2021.

FACTS:

- Ms Russell is a licensed stable hand to trainer Mr T Evans and registered under the Office of Racing Integrity.
- On Friday, 8th January 2021 at the Tasmanian Turf Club Ms Russell approached Mr Brunton initiating a verbal confrontation prior to a race being run.
- A number of members of the public provided evidence at the inquiry.

INQUIRY:

Stewards inquired into an incident that occurred at the Tasmanian Turf Club on the 8th January 2021. A number of members of the public were interviewed in relation to an altercation between Ms J Russell and Mr S Brunton in the mounting yard. After considering all the evidence stewards issued a charge under Australian Rule of Racing AR228(b).

DECISION:

Ms J Russell pleaded guilty to a charge under AR228(b) by misconducting herself by approaching and instigating a verbal confrontation with Mr Brunton in the mounting yard. Which occurred in front of a number of witnesses. Ms Russell was fined \$200 which was wholly suspended for a period of 12 months under the provision she does not re-offend under this rule.

In assessing penalty, Stewards considered Ms Russell's guilty plea, forthright evidence, her time involved in the industry and her record in relation to this rule. It was also noted that Ms Russell has had no prior convictions recorded on her license.

Ms Russell was advised of her Right to Appeal.