

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 16th November 2021

Stewards Panel: D Tyson (Chairman), G Griffin

Name: Ismail Toker

Track/Race: **Spreyton Racecourse**

Date: 18th July 2021

Rule no: **AR 129 Running and handling**
(2) A rider must take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that the rider's horse is given full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible place in the field.

Charge(s): The particulars of the charge were that as a licenced jockey with the Office Of Racing Integrity, Mr I Toker failed to take all reasonable and permissible measures to win or obtain the best possible place in the field when he rode Innocent Pegg in race 4 at the Devonport Racing Club's meeting on 18 July 2021. The specifics of the charge being that from passing the 250 metres he failed to show sufficient vigour with his riding and did not attempt to pursue a run to the inside of Willow Wood when it became available.

Inquiry Decision: 16/02/2022

Suspension of licence to ride in races for six Tasmanian race dates commencing midnight 24/11/2021 until midnight 19/12/2021.

FACTS: . Mr Toker rode Innocent Pegg at the DRC race meeting in race 4 after he was a late rider declaration due to several Victorian rider being unable to attend due to covid restrictions. The owner of Innocent Pegg lodged a verbal complaint regarding the riding tactics and allegations regarding Mr Toker's involvement with two horses in the training of Mr G Stevenson at the conclusion of the race meeting. Upon review stewards sought further information regarding wagering on the race as well as the bonafides of the ownership of the horses Turk Delight and Turk Warrior trained by Mr Stevenson.

INQUIRY. Initial evidence was taken from Mr.Toker into his ride at the Devonport Racing Club's meeting on August 28 2021 into the riding tactics he had adopted in the race and then adjourned to gather further evidence.

The inquiry was recommenced on 16/11/2021 when stewards advised Mr Toker that they did not possess any concrete evidence regarding the allegations regarding the ownership of the aforementioned horses however they would be continuing with the inquiry into his riding tactics. Evidence was taken from the trainer of Innocent Pegg, Mr Kelvin Hamilton who advised that he had not been satisfied with the tactics adopted on the day. He also refuted that the horse had pulled up sore as alleged during the inquiry by Mr Toker.

After considering all the evidence regarding Mr Toker's ride the stewards believed Mr Toker's riding had not been acceptable from the 250 metres to approaching the 100 metres where he had shown insufficient vigour and failed to pursue an outside run. He had then showed vigour riding out "hands and heels" to the finish.

Mr Toker was charged under AR 129(2) and was found guilty of the offence.

DECISION: After considering submissions on penalty including his good record under this rule in his fifteen years riding career, his personal circumstances and pending riding commitments his licence to ride in races was suspended for a period of six Tasmanian race dates. Stewards were also mindful of the effect of offences such as this on owners, trainers and stakeholders.