

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**For immediate release**

Date of issue 19 May 2017

## ***HARNES AWARDS DINNER 2015 INQUIRY***

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards have concluded an inquiry into incidents which took place both within and outside the Wrest Point Casino following the 2015 Harness Awards Dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2015. Following are the findings and penalties handed down.

### **Mr Tyler Ford**

Tyler Ford was charged and found guilty of four offences.

AHRR 231(e) – Assault, AHRR 243 – conduct prejudicial or detrimental to harness racing and two charges under rule AHRR 187 – Fail to attend an inquiry when directed to do so. After sustaining the charges against Mr Ford the following penalties were imposed.

**AHRR 231(e)** – Warning off for a period of six months.

**AHRR 243** – Warning off for a period of two years.

**AHRR 187** (two charges) – Warning off period of six months for each charge to be served concurrently with each other and cumulatively to the penalty of the first two charges. AHRR 231(e) and AHRR 187. Penalty has been backdated to commence at midnight on 22 October at 2015 and expires midnight 22 April 2018.

### **Mr Nathan Ford**

Nathan Ford was charged and found guilty of four offences.

Two charges under AHRR 243 – conduct prejudicial or detrimental to harness racing, AHRR 187(1) & (7) - Fail to attend an inquiry when directed to do so, AHRR 187(2) – give false or misleading evidence or information.

After sustaining the charges against Mr Ford the following penalties were imposed.

**AHRR 243** (charge one) - A twelve month disqualification which is to commence at the end of Mr Fords current period of disqualification.

**AHRR 243** (charge two) – A twelve month disqualification to be served cumulative to charge one.

**AHRR 187(1) & (7)** – A twelve month disqualification to be served cumulative to the second charge penalty.

**AHRR 187(2)** – A twelve month disqualification to be served cumulative to that in charge three. Mr Fords disqualification will expire at midnight November 11 2023.

### **Mr Grant Hodges**

Grant Hodges was charged and found guilty of two offences.

AHRR 231(1)(e) – Assault and AHRR 187(1) & (7) – Fail to attend an inquiry when directed to do so.

After sustaining the charges against Mr Hodges the following penalties were imposed.

**AHRR 231(1)(e)** – A two year disqualification.

**AHRR 187(1) & (7)** – A twelve month disqualification to be served cumulatively to the first disqualification.

Mr Hodges disqualification commences 16 May 2017 and expires 15 May 2020.

### **Mr Troy Hillier**

Troy Hillier was charged and found guilty of one offence.

**AHRR 243** – conduct prejudicial or detrimental to harness racing.

After sustaining the charge against Mr Hillier a \$1000 fine was imposed.

### **Mr Rohan Hillier**

Rohan Hillier was charged and found guilty of one offence.

**AHRR 243** – conduct prejudicial or detrimental to harness racing.

After sustaining the charge against Mr Hillier a \$2000 fine was imposed \$1000 of which is to be suspended for a period of two years.

All parties were advised of their right to appeal.

- ends -

Adrian Crowther

**CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS – Harness**