

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

20 September 2021

Thoroughbred Race Meeting at Spreyton

Following ongoing assessment, the Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) recently provided limited approval for two apprentice jockeys to ride in races. The limited approval allows the apprentice jockeys a maximum of two rides per meeting for their relevant master and mounts must be approved by the stewards.

The two apprentice jockeys rode in their first meeting on Sunday 19 September 2021.

The progress of all apprentices is monitored by both the Tasmanian Apprentice Jockey Program Manager, Mr Stephen Maskiell and stewards from the Office of Racing Integrity.

The Tasmanian Jockeys Association (TJA) President Mr Kevin Ring raised concerns with ORI in relation to the perception that senior jockeys had not been consulted in relation to allowing the two apprentices to ride in races.

On Thursday 16 September 2021, the TJA President was advised that the process regarding the provision of permits to apprentice jockeys, specifically in respect of consultation with senior jockeys is not defined, however ORI would work with Tasracing and the TJA in developing a formal process.

On Friday 17 September 2021, Mr Ring advised ORI that the 'Senior Jockey Group' had made the decision to withdraw their services for the Thoroughbred meeting at Spreyton on Sunday 19 September 2021. The reason cited was in respect to the decision to provide permission for the two apprentices to ride.

The race meeting on Sunday 19 September 2021 at Spreyton proceeded as scheduled with the services of apprentice riders and one senior jockey. There were several late scratchings associated with rider availability.

In response to media reports that the decision of the senior jockeys was because of lack of consultation in relation to the condition of the track, ORI advises that no such concerns have been raised with stewards by the TJA.

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For further information
Contact:

Justin Helmich
Director of Racing
0460 022 710