

## APPEAL PANEL OF RACING NEW SOUTH WALES

### APPEAL BY LICENSED JOCKEY ZAC LLOYD

Heard at Racing NSW Offices at 11/51 Drutt Street Sydney NSW

Appeal Panel: **Mr Alec Leopold SC (Convenor), Ms Sharon Skeggs  
and Mr Peter Losh**

Representatives: **Racing NSW – Mr Tom Moxon  
Appellant – Mr Wayne Pasterfield**

Date of Hearing: **20 March 2025**

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### REASONS FOR DECISION

#### Introduction

1. This Appeal relates to a charge brought by the Stewards against a licensed jockey, Mr Zac Lloyd, to the effect that he engaged in careless riding within the meaning of AR131(a) of the Rules of Racing of Racing NSW.
2. AR131(a) provides that a rider must not, "*in the opinion of the stewards*", engage in careless riding. The Appeal Panel is of the view that the words "*in the opinion of the stewards*" do not have the effect that an offence is committed, without more, if the Stewards form the relevant opinion. The Appeal Panel has the power to reverse a decision of the Stewards if the Appeal Panel forms the view that the opinion of the Stewards, the subject of the appeal, should be varied. An appeal to the Appeal Panel is a hearing *de novo*.
3. The incident involved 3 horses competing in race 9 at Rosehill Gardens on Saturday 15 March 2025. The Appellant pleaded guilty to a charge of careless riding in that near the 1100 metre mark he permitted his mount (*Willaidow*) to shift in when insufficiently clear of *Pericles* (ridden by James McDonald), resulting in that runner being hampered and carried in, which caused a third horse, *Just Fine* (racing on the inside of *Pericles*), also to be hampered when crowded by *Pericles*.
4. After the Appellant was found guilty of the charge, the Stewards suspended his licence to ride in races for a period of 11 days commencing on 23 March 2025, making the Appellant free to recommence riding on 3 April 2025.

5. The appeal was heard at the offices of Racing NSW on 20 March 2025, with me as Convener, sitting with Ms Sharon Skeggs (who has had a lifetime experience in horse-riding) and Mr Peter Losh (a former jockey).

### **Decision/reasons**

6. The Appeal Panel determined that the appeal should be upheld the following reasons, which can be stated relatively briefly.
7. It is clear that, as Mr McDonald said in his evidence before the Stewards, his horse (*Pericles*) increased its tempo as the Appellant's horse (*Willaidow*) moved forward on the outside of *Pericles*. The increase in tempo by *Pericles* undoubtedly contributed to the interference which was caused to *Just Fine*.
8. Consequently the Appeal Panel has formed the view that the interference caused by Mr Lloyd falls somewhere in the low to medium range.
9. However, Mr Lloyd's riding record is very poor indeed. Just in the last 14 months, from 13 January 2024 to 15 March 2025, he has committed 25 riding contraventions of the Rules of Racing, 23 of which concerned careless riding.
10. In all those circumstances, the Appeal Panel considers that the appropriate penalty is that Mr Lloyd be suspended from riding in races for a period of 4 days, from 26 to 29 March inclusive.
11. That being so, the "start date" for the suspension of Mr Lloyd is 26 March and his "resume date" is 30 March 2025.
12. Mr Lloyd having achieved a measure of success on his appeal, the appropriate course in relation to the appeal deposit is that 50% of the deposit be refunded to him.

### **Orders**

13. The orders of the Appeal Panel are:
  - (a) Appeal upheld;
  - (b) Decision of the stewards of 15 March 2025 be varied so as to suspend the Appellant's licence to ride in races from 26 to 29 March 2025 inclusive;

(c) 50% of the appeal deposit to be refunded.

20 March 2025



**Alec Leopold SC**

Acting Principal Member and Convenor

Appeal Panel of Racing NSW