INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED CONDUCT OF LICENSED TRAINER MR GINO D'ALTORIO

Murrumbidgee Turf Club **30 September 2026**
Stewards Room
Via Videoconference

Stewards: **D R Hadley (Chair)**
M W Cleaver
B J Clark
B D Beasley

Background

In August 2026, Racing NSW commenced an investigation into the care and welfare afforded to thoroughbred gelding *Sonattack* which was recorded as spelling in the care of licensed trainer Gino D'Altorio.

On 30 September 2026 Racing NSW Stewards conducted an inquiry into evidence provided by licensed trainer Mr Gino D'Altorio during recorded interviews conducted by Racing NSW Investigator Anna Tabet on 27 August 2026 concerning the whereabouts and care of the thoroughbred gelding *Sonattack.*

During a recorded interview commencing at approximately 11:29am, Mr D'Altorio provided evidence to the effect that he had given *Sonattack* to an associate, Mr Frank Ciampa, and that the gelding was no longer in his care.

Later that day, at approximately 3:32pm, Mr D'Altorio participated in a second recorded interview. During that interview, and after being questioned regarding inconsistencies in his earlier evidence, Mr D'Altorio acknowledged that *Sonattack* had remained at the associate's property while he attempted to find the gelding a home, that he continued to check on the gelding and that *Sonattack* remained his horse.

Stewards considered the evidence and, as a result, issued two (2) charges against Mr D'Altorio under AR296(2)(d)(i) and AR232(i).

Charges issued against Mr Gino D'Altorio

Charge 1: AR296(2)(d)(i)

The details of the charge being that he did fail to lodge an amendment to the Stable Return for the thoroughbred gelding *Sonattack* when the particulars recorded on the Stable Return had changed.

Plea: Guilty
Finding: Guilty

Charge 2: AR232(i)

The details of the charge being that at approximately 11:29am on 27 August 2026, during a recorded interview with Racing NSW Investigator Anna Tabet concerning the whereabouts and care of the thoroughbred gelding *Sonattack,* he did provide misleading evidence by stating that he had given *Sonattack* to an associate and that the gelding was no longer in his care, when *Sonattack* remained his horse and he continued to exercise responsibility for the gelding.

Plea: Guilty
Finding: Guilty

Penalty

The following penalty considerations were taken into account –

- Guilty pleas entered
- Objective seriousness of the breaches
- Precedent penalties
- Personal and professional circumstances
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct
- The importance of equine welfare for the thoroughbred racing industry prior to, during racing and on retirement
- The purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image, interests and welfare of the thoroughbred racing industry

Charge 1: AR296(2)(d)(i) – $200 fine

Charge 2: AR232(i) – 3-month suspension of licence

Having regard to Mr D'Altorio's guilty plea and other relevant considerations, Stewards ordered that the 3-month suspension be reduced to a period of 2 months.

Pursuant to AR283(5), Stewards ordered that one month of the two-month suspension be suspended for a period of 12 months, conditional upon Mr D'Altorio not breaching AR232(i), or any related rule, during that period.

Under the powers afforded by AR283(7), Stewards ordered that the commencement of the 1-month suspension be deferred for a period of seven (7) days. During that period, Mr D'Altorio is not permitted to start a horse in a race.

Accordingly, the period of suspension is to commence on 7 October 2026 and expires on 7 November 2026.

Mr D'Altorio was advised of his appeal rights.

Relevant Rules:

AR 296 Named horse change of location

(2) A trainer must:
(d) lodge an amendment to a Stable Return immediately if:
any particulars on the Stable Return have changed;

AR232(i) Failure to observe processes and directions of PRAs or Stewards

A person must not give any evidence at an interview, investigation, inquiry, hearing and/or appeal which is false or misleading.

AR 283 Penalties
(7) A person or body authorised by these Australian Rules to suspend or disqualify any trainer may defer the commencement of the period of suspension or disqualification for no more than 7 clear days following the day the suspension or disqualification was imposed, and upon terms and conditions considered fit.

D R Hadley
General Manager – Investigations
Racing NSW