



HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF CHARGE ISSUED REGISTERED OWNER MR MALCOLM RUSSELL

**Racing NSW Head Offices  
Druitt Street, Sydney  
Via videoconference**

**27 February 2026**

**Stewards: D R Hadley (Chair)  
M W Cleaver**

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In late January 2026, Racing NSW integrity commenced an investigation following a complaint regarding the conduct of registered owner Mr Malcolm Russell.

Evidence established that on 27 January 2026, Mr Russell engaged in a telephone conversation with licensed trainer Mr Joseph Ible regarding the performance of *Invincible Vecchio* during the scheduled race meeting at Goulburn earlier that day.

During that call Mr Russell became aggressive and abusive. Shortly thereafter, Mr Russell sent a series of text messages to Mr Ible containing offensive and derogatory language, including repeated profanities and personal insults.

On 8 February 2026, Mr Russell was directed to attend a Stewards inquiry scheduled for 10:00am on Wednesday 25 February 2026.

On 25 February 2026, Stewards conducted an inquiry into the alleged conduct of Mr Russell. Mr Russell failed to attend the inquiry as directed to do so. A brief of evidence compiled by Investigator Ash Tucker was tendered and oral evidence was taken from Mr Ible.

Stewards adjourned the inquiry and issued two (2) charges against Mr Russell as detailed below. Miss Russell was directed to attend the hearing and determination of charges scheduled for Friday 27 February 2026.

On 27 February 2026, Stewards conducted a hearing and determination of charges issued against Mr Russell. Mr Russell failed to attend as directed to do so and the matter was heard *ex parte*.

## **Charges issued against Mr Malcolm Russell**

### **Charge 1: AR228(b) Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing**

The details of the charge being that, on 27 January 2026, he engaged in improper conduct by directing aggressive, threatening and improper language via telephone call and text message towards Mr Joseph Ible.

**Finding: Guilty**

### **Charge 3: AR232(h) Failure to observe processes and directions of PRAs or Stewards**

The details of the charge being that on 25 February 2026, he did fail to attend an inquiry when directed by the Stewards.

**Finding: Guilty**

## **Penalty**

The following penalty considerations were taken into account -

- The lack of cooperation from Mr Russell during the investigation and Stewards inquiries
- Precedent penalties
- Objective seriousness of the conduct
- Principle of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image, interests and welfare of the thoroughbred racing industry.

### **Charge 1: AR228(b) – 2 months disqualification of licence**

### **Charge 3: AR232(h) – 6 months disqualification of licence**

Stewards ruled that the total period of disqualification is 8 months to commence on 6 March 2026 and to expire on 6 November 2026.

Under the powers afforded by AR283(7), Stewards ordered the commencement of the penalty be deferred for a period of seven (7) days.

Mr Russell was advised of his appeal rights.



**Relevant Rules:**

**AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing**

*A person must not engage in:*

*(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;*

**Division 6 – Misconduct by failure to observe official processes and directions**

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

*A person must not:*

*(h) refuse or fail to attend or give evidence at an interview, investigation, inquiry, hearing or appeal when directed or requested to do so by a PRA, the Stewards or a person authorised by a PRA or the Stewards;*

**D R Hadley  
General Manager – Investigations  
Racing NSW**