



INQUIRY INTO THE CARE, WELFARE AND HUSBANDRY AFFORDED TO THE THOROUGHBRED MARE
SPECTRUMS IMAGE

Towac Park Orange
Via teleconference

3 June 2026

Stewards: D.J. Bucknell (Chairman)
D.R. Hadley

Racing NSW Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the care, husbandry and welfare of the Thoroughbred mare *Spectrum's Image* following that mare being found to have a body condition score of 1/9 and significantly compromised dentition when examined by Dr T. Bailey on 21 May 2026 before the mare was euthanised on 30 May 2026 after being found to be recumbent and unable to regain its feet.

After considering evidence from Mr Randal Grayson; owner of the mare, Racing NSW official veterinarian Dr E Merritt and a brief of evidence compiled by Racing NSW Investigator Mr A Tucker, which included written evidence from Dr Bailey, Stewards issued the following charges against Mr Grayson:

Charge 1- AR231(1)(b)(i)B Care and welfare of horses

The particulars of the charge being that, registered owner, Mr Randal Grayson, President of the Forbes Jockey Club, did fail to exercise reasonable care, control or supervision of the mare *Spectrum's Image* so as to prevent that mare's body condition from declining to an unacceptable level, by reason of the following particulars, either singularly or cumulatively:

1. Mr Grayson is a registered owner with Racing NSW, and president of the Forbes Jockey Club and therefore bound by the rules of racing.
2. Mr Grayson was the owner of and was at all relevant times the person in charge of the Thoroughbred mare *Spectrum's Image*
3. Between approximately January 2026 and 20 May 2026 Mr Grayson did not have any supervision of the mare *Spectrum's Image* nor did he make any attempts gain access to the mare or make enquiries as to its condition.
4. On 21 May 2026 the mare was examined by Dr T Bailey of Lachlan Valley Vets who found the mare to be emaciated and to have a body condition score of 1/9.
5. On 30 May 2026 the mare was found to be recumbent and unable to regain its feet and as such was euthanised.
6. Mr Grayson did fail to exercise reasonable care, control and supervision of *Spectrum's Image* to prevent the horses body condition based on veterinary advice declining to an unacceptable level.

Plea: Guilty

Charge 2- LR114(3) Equine Welfare

The Particulars of the charge being that; registered owner, Mr Randal Grayson, President of the Forbes Jockey Club, did fail to exercise reasonable care, control or supervision of the mare *Spectrum's Image* that was necessary to prevent that mare from unnecessary pain or suffering by way of the following particulars, either singularly or cumulatively:

1. Mr Grayson is a registered owner with Racing NSW, and president of the Forbes Jockey Club and are therefore bound by the rules of racing.
2. Mr Grayson was the owner of and were at all relevant times the person in charge of the Thoroughbred mare *Spectrum's Image*
3. On 21 May the mare was examined by Dr T Bailey of Lachlan Velly Vets who found the mare to be emaciated and to have a body condition score of 1/9 and to have significant geriatric changes to its teeth.
4. At no stage when the mare showed signs that it could not maintain condition over the colder months did Mr Grayson have the mare undergo a dental and/or veterinary examination when such examination was reasonable.
5. Mr Grayson's failure to have the mare undergo a dental and/or veterinary examination either in part or in full led to the mare becoming emaciated and subject to unnecessary pain or suffering.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty:

In assessing penalty Stewards took into consideration all relevant factors including but not limited to:

- The objective seriousness of the offences
- The resultant welfare implications for the mare
- The specific circumstances surrounding the offence
- The effect such acts can have on the image and perception of the sport of thoroughbred racing
- Mr Grayson's personal and professional circumstances.
- MR Grayson's Guilty pleas
- Mr Grayson's forthright evidence and assistance with the inquiry
- Mr Grayson's co-operation with Racing NSW and the attempts made to rehabilitate the mare
- Precedent penalties.
- Principle of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct

Charge 1: AR231(1)(b)(i)B- Stewards considered the appropriate starting point for a penalty be a period of disqualification of twelve months, having regard to Mr Grayson's contrition, guilty plea, assistance with the inquiry and other mitigating factors that was reduced to a period of nine months disqualification.

Charge 2: LR114(3)- Stewards considered the appropriate starting point for a penalty be a period of disqualification of twelve months, having regard to Mr Grayson's contrition, guilty plea,

assistance with the inquiry and other mitigating factors that was reduced to a period of nine months disqualification.

Given the related nature of the offences Stewards deemed it appropriate that both penalties be served concurrently and acting under the powers of AR283(7) ruled that the period of disqualification be deferred for a period of 7 days in order to allow Mr Grayson and the Forbes Jockey Club to make suitable arrangements for the ongoing management of the Jockey Club on the basis that no horse Mr Grayson holds an ownership interest in be permitted to start in a race in that period of time. As such the period of disqualification will commence on 10 June 2026 and to expire on 10 March 2027. Mr Grayson was advised of his right of appeal.

Relevant Rules:

AR 231 Care and welfare of horses

(1) A person must not:

(b) if the person is in charge of a horse – fail at any time:

(i) to exercise reasonable care, control or supervision of the horse so as to prevent:

B. the horse's body condition from declining to, in the opinion of the Stewards based on veterinary advice, an unacceptable level;

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

LR114(3) Equine Welfare

(3) A registered owner, trainer or any person that is in charge of or has in his or her possession, control or custody of any horses (Eligible Horses, Unnamed Horses and Named Horses) must exercise reasonable care, control and supervision as may be necessary to prevent any such horse from being subject to cruelty or unnecessary pain or suffering.

D J Bucknell

**Chief Steward- Central Districts Racing Association
Racing NSW**