RACING NSW – STEWARDS REPORT

HEARING OF CHARGES ISSUED AGAINST LICENSED TRAINER MR JOHN THOMPSON FOR BREACHES OF RACING NSW COVID-19 POLICIES AND NSW HEALTH ORDERS.

Racing NSW Offices **14 September 2021**
Druitt Street
Sydney
(by Video Conference)

Stewards: **M F Van Gestel (Chairman)**
S G Railton
T J Vassallo

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted a hearing of charges issued against licensed trainer Mr John Thompson for breaches of Racing NSW COVID-19 Protocols and NSW Health Orders. Mr Thompson was assisted by Mr Christian Bova Barrister and Mr John Anderson Barrister, instructed by Mr Kevin Shum.

Charges

Mr Thompson was charged with the following offences.

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

   - Attending Randwick racecourse between 2 August 2021 and 7 September 2021 in breach Racing NSW policies and protocols.
   - Having attended Randwick race meetings on 21 August 2021 and 4 September 2021 in breach of Racing NSW policies and protocols, and NSW Health Orders.

   Plea: Guilty

2. ***AR 233 Breach of Racing NSW Policy***

   - Attending Randwick racecourse between 2 August 2021 and 7 September 2021 in breach Racing NSW policies and protocols.
   - Having attended Randwick race meetings on 21 August 2021 and 4 September 2021 in breach of Racing NSW policies and protocols.

   Plea: Guilty

Penalty

Stewards considered the following matters in respect to penalty.

1. Guilty Plea at earliest opportunity and contrition displayed.
2. Personal and professional circumstances.
3. Good record.
4. Stewards were satisfied that the breaches were not intentional breaches or a wilful disregard to the policies. Further that Mr Thompson had failed to act diligently by informing himself of the policies set by Racing NSW and NSW Health Orders.
5. Stewards were also satisfied that Mr Thompson genuinely believed that he was complying with Racing NSW Policies and NSW Health Orders as he was undertaking regular Covid-19 tests (as required for authorised workers) and obtaining Government travel permits.
6. Principles applied by Stewards when issuing penalties as a protective order.
7. Relevant circumstances of this case.

Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty for each offence was a fine of $25,000 reduced to $18,750 for Mr Thompson's guilty plea. Having regard to the principles of totality, considering both charges were for the same conduct, Stewards determined that the total fine issued to Mr Thompson be $18,750.

Relevant Rules

AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing

A person must not engage in:

(a) conduct prejudicial to the image, interests, integrity, or welfare of racing, whether or not that conduct takes place within a racecourse or elsewhere.

AR 233 Other misconduct offences

A person must not:

(a) breach a policy, regulation or code of practice published by Racing Australia or a PRA;

M F VAN GESTEL
CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS
GENERAL MANAGER - INTEGRITY