

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

12 April 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Shane Furze

On 8 April 2019, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered a charge issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) 231(1)(e) against registered owner Shane Furze.

AHRR 231(1) reads as follows:

A person shall not:-

...

(e) assault

...

anyone employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing industry or otherwise having a connection with it.

The charge under AHRR 231(1)(e) related to an incident subsequent to the running of Race 5, the 'Mildura Working Man's Club Pace' at the Mildura harness racing meeting on 6 September 2018, where Mr Furze assaulted Mr Weightman as he drove 'Dynamite Dingo' through the parade ring and struck Mr Weightman on the back of his helmet with his hand. Mr Furze also made disparaging comments towards Mr Weightman.

Mr Furze pleaded guilty to the charge before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards and Mr Furze.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Furze's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Furze's history in the harness racing industry and personal circumstances; the fact that Mr Furze gives

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back to the industry by rehoming horses; Mr Furze's remorse for his actions; both general and specific deterrence and especially important that people be deterred from assaulting drivers after a race in which they disapprove of the drive; the circumstances of the matter in that Mr Furze's actions were dangerous in that he assaulted a driver in the vicinity of horses and other people; and accepted that Mr Furze is a registered owner and not a licensed person. The HRV RAD Board accordingly imposed a four month suspension which was ordered to commence midnight 13 April 2019. The conditions of the suspension include Mr Furze not being able to attend harness racing meetings and any registered training establishments for the duration of the suspension. Mr Furze was also fined \$5000, of which \$1000 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks (Chair), Robert Abrahams (Deputy Chair).

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