

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

7 February 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Geoff Sanderson

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board today considered a charge issued against industry participant Geoff Sanderson under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 241 relating to the lodgement of a transfer document.

AHRR 241 reads as follows:

A person shall not in connection with any part of the harness racing industry do anything which is fraudulent or corrupt.

The particulars of the charge relate to Mr Sanderson providing HRV with a “Transfer of Ownership of Horse” document of which he entered information and signed under another person’s name.

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

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Sanderson’s guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Sanderson’s personal circumstances and remorse; the fall from grace suffered as a result of the matter, Mr Sanderson’s positive contribution to the harness racing industry over a long period of time; no financial benefit gained by Mr Sanderson; the purpose of the rules to preserve the integrity of the industry; and both general and specific deterrence. Mr Sanderson was subsequently fined \$1000.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Judge Graeme Hicks (Chair), Rod Osborne.