

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

31 July 2019

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Craig Smart

On 30 July 2019, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered a charge issued against registered owner Craig Smart 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 Smart providing HRV with a “Transfer of Ownership of Horse” document of which he entered information fraudulently and signed under another person’s name.

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

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mr Smart’s guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mr Smart’s personal circumstances and remorse; the purpose of the rules to preserve the integrity of the industry and that owners are not deprived of rightful ownership shares in horses; and both general and specific deterrence. Mr Smart was subsequently fined \$1000.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Robert Abrahams (Deputy Chair), Rod Osborne.