Harness Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

Media Release Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

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HRV RAD Board – Matthew Walsh

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board today considered a charge issued against licensed driver Matthew Walsh under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 231(1)(d) which provides:

231(1) A person shall not:-

(d) abuse

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

The charge issued by HRV Stewards against Mr Walsh related to a text message sent to a licensed trainer that contained inappropriate language and was abusive in nature.

Mr Walsh pleaded guilty to the charge.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered the message was limited to one message, however was between two licensed participants and contained abusive language. Also considered was Mr Walsh's personal offence record, his obvious remorse, and cooperation with HRV Stewards as evidenced by his guilty plea.

In considering all of these matters the HRV RAD Board imposed a fine of \$500 with \$200 of the fine being suspended for a period of 12 months.

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 50B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.