

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

16 January 2017

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.