

# Media Release

## Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

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17 April 2019

*The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board yesterday heard a matter in regard to a charge issued by HRV Stewards under the Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 187(5) against Shepparton Harness Racing Club Manager Mr Ian McDonald.*

*Mr McDonald pleaded guilty to the charge issued by the HRV Stewards under AHRR 187(5) which states:*

**187. (5)** *A person shall not abuse, intimidate or be deliberately obstructive of the Stewards.*

*The particulars of the charge were that at the Shepparton race meeting on 27 December 2018 Mr McDonald directed abuse towards HRV Compliance Steward Mr John Packer.*

*After hearing submissions on penalty the HRV RAD Board imposed a fine of \$1000 upon Mr McDonald and ordered half of that penalty be suspended for a period of 12 months providing no further conducted related offences during that time.*

*In arriving at this penalty the HRV RAD Board noted Mr McDonald's guilty plea, exemplary record within the harness racing industry and his contribution to the community in other roles. The HRV RAD Board further remarked that the relevant principles requiring consideration were denunciation and general and specific deterrence as persons must be deterred from being abusive towards Stewards and they must be protected.*

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