

# Media Release

## Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

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12 April 2019

### **HRV RAD Board Hearing – Nathan Weightman**

On 8 April 2019, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered charges issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) 149(1) and 231(2) against licensed driver Nathan Weightman.

AHRR 149(1) reads as follows:

*A driver shall take all reasonable and permissible measures during the course of a race to ensure that the horse driven by that driver is given full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible placing in the field.*

The charge under AHRR 149(1) related to Mr Weightman's drive on 'Dynamite Dingo' in Race 5, the 'Mildura Working Man's Club Pace' at the Mildura harness racing meeting on 6 September 2018. Mr Weightman was charged with not giving 'Dynamite Dingo' full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible placing as it was both reasonable and permissible for Mr Weightman to take cover behind 'Geronimo Dan' between the 1200m and 1000m, which was a favourable horse to follow, to allow 'Dynamite Dingo' some respite after that horse worked hard during the early stages to obtain the position outside of the leader.

Mr Weightman was also charged with a breach of AHRR 231(2) being that subsequent to the running of Race 5 at Mildura on 6 September 2018, he misconducted himself in that he reacted with threatening comments after being struck on the back of his helmet in the parade ring by registered owner Shane Furze.

Mr Weightman did not appear at the hearing. The HRV RAD Board considered submissions from licensed trainer Daryl Weightman, acting on behalf of Mr Weightman, notifying that Mr Weightman would not be appearing due to health

reasons and giving permission for the hearing to be heard in his absence. The HRV RAD Board determined to proceed in his absence under Victoria Local Rule 50(1)(a).

The HRV RAD Board, after hearing evidence from HRV Stewards and after taking into consideration all relevant material including interviews, statements and exhibits, found Mr Weightman guilty of both charges.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board took into account the relevant considerations as per the HRV Minimum Penalty Guidelines which included Mr Weightman's not guilty plea, the degree of culpability involved in that it was not a minor misconceiving of the situation, the frequency in which he drives and his offence record where he had never previously offended under the relevant rule, the HRV RAD Board accordingly imposed a six week suspension of Mr Weightman's licence to drive in races which was ordered to commence midnight 2 July 2019, which is at the conclusion of a suspension incurred at Ouyen on 24 March 2019

In relation to the misconduct charge, Mr Weightman was fined \$500, half of which was suspended for two years providing no further offences under the conduct related rules

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