

DECISION

Racing Integrity Act 2016, sections 252AH, 252BM

Review application number	RAP-156	
Name	Angela Jones	
Panel	Mr K J O'Brien AM (Chairperson) Mr E Wilkinson (Panel Member) Mr K Waller (Panel Member)	
Code	Thoroughbreds	
Rule	Australian Rules of Racing 131(a) <i>A rider must not, in the opinion of the Stewards engage in careless, reckless, improper, incompetent or foul riding</i>	
Penalty Notice number	PN-011753	
Appearances & Representation	Applicant	Self-represented
	Respondent	B Wright - Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Hearing Date	7 July 2025	
Decision Date	7 July 2025	
Decision	Pursuant to 252AH(1)(a) the Racing Decision is Confirmed <i>(delivered ex tempore)</i>	
Case References		

- [1] The Applicant in this matter is licenced jockey Ms Angela Jones. On 28 June 2025 the Applicant was found guilty by Stewards of an offence of careless riding contrary to Australian Rule of Racing 131(a). She received a penalty of 10 day suspension of licence operative for midnight 5 July 2025 until midnight 15 July 2025. She seeks a review of the Steward's determination of guilt, and of the penalty imposed.
- [2] The charges arose from an incident during the running of Race 8 at Eagle Farm Racecourse on 28 June 2025, when the Applicant was the rider of Floozy in the Group One Tattersall's Tiara raced over 1400 meters.
- [3] The particulars of the charge against the Applicant were as follows¹:

Jockey A. Jones was found guilty of a charge of careless riding in that passing the 200m she allowed her mount to shift out, carrying BUBBA'S BAY (jockey Andrew Mallyon) out to the heels of ABOUNDING causing BUBBA'S BAY to check

- [4] The Applicant had pleaded not guilty to that charge, but the Stewards, having watched the race footage and taken evidence from other riders involved in the incident, were satisfied of her guilt. The length of the suspension was determined in accordance with the Careless Riding Template, which appears as Annexure A to the Thoroughbred Racing Penalty Guidelines. It was considered to involve a low-level degree of carelessness, with level two consequences of causing another rider to check. Under the template, that attracts a starting point of a 10-day suspension of licence. The Applicant was not afforded any dispensation on account of her disciplinary record, due to her having incurred four suspensions in the past 12 months with over 700 rides in that period. No premium was added, although the Stewards could have added a further day based on her disciplinary record. As the incident occurred in a feature race, a 20% loading of two days was applied, although she was then allowed a 20% discount or two days reduction as a result of what Stewards deemed to be some contributory conduct on the part of another rider. The end result was the period of 10-day licence suspension referred to above.
- [5] In her Application, the Applicant contends that she is not guilty of careless riding and that in any event, the appropriate penalty would have been one involving a reprimand. Her Notice of Application sets out the following²:

The interference was a culmination of shift from my mount and Tom Sherry on the eventual winner(Tashi) who pushed Jake Bayliss (Abounding) onto Andrew Mallyon's mount (Bubbas Bay) which as well effectively closed the gap he was in. Stewards advised that Tom Sherry contributed 20% of the interference and was given a severe reprimand. I contend that Tom Sherry's mount contributed as much of the interference to Andrew Mallyon and the result should be put down as a racing incident with both myself (sic) and Tom Sherry issued reprimands.

- [6] It is appropriate that we should make some reference to the evidence that was given at the Steward's Hearing. That included evidence from Chief Steward, Mr Josh Adams, who described the view he had of the race from the Steward's tower which afforded a clear head on view of the incident. Passing the 200 metre mark, he observed that Jockey Mallyon had established a run to the outside of the Applicant's mount, Floozy. Passing that point, Mr Adams observed that Floozy commenced to shift out. He also

¹ Penalty Information Notice – PN-011753

² Application for review – RAP-156

noticed a shift from the outside, from Jockey Sherry's horse. Mr Adams was not able to make any determination as to which of the riders was responsible for what he called the "main shift".

- [7] The Applicant, prior to the viewing of the race footage, gave evidence at the Inquiry that she felt her mount was "running on a pretty true line and she was aware her mount had shifted out quickly as she was regathering her reins and she straightened up as best she could once she had a better holding of her mouth and was able to continue on that line"³. After reviewing the footage of the race, the Applicant gave evidence that she "definitely shifted initially [unclear] while I was gathering my reins, but I feel like once I had a better hold of them, I kept a pretty again and clear line. I felt like when the incident was happening, I was in a pretty straight line"⁴.
- [8] When questioned as to whether she believed she had encroached on Jockey Mallyon's running line, the Applicant gave evidence that she "got flush" with Jockey Mallyon's mount but did not feel that she was shifting at the point of the incident.⁵
- [9] In support of her plea of not guilty, the Applicant said⁶:

I'd just like to say I never actually - once I got to Andrew Mallyon's line, I straightened my mount and I never actually got into his line. I feel like I definitely did contribute, but I think the outside 181 horses really finished it off and I just don't think that it's worthy of a charge having how much the outside horses have a bearing on it.

- [10] Prior to the viewing of the race footage Jockey Sherry gave evidence that his mount had travelled well, had improved to the outside of Jockey Bayliss quickly and sharply, but had not shifted in and was therefore not really aware of the incident⁷. After reviewing the footage of the race, Jockey Sherry gave evidence that his mount had gradually shifted in a horse and that he carried Jockey Bayliss off his line slightly, but he felt as though the pressure was relieved at the point of the incident⁸.
- [11] The Applicant in her submissions to the Panel has made reference to other portions of the evidence, including that of the Jockey Mallyon, that described how the incident "just felt like a bottleneck"⁹ and elsewhere when he stated "it might be more the outside shifting in than what Ange's coming out"¹⁰. Elsewhere he said, "I would say they're both shifting ground"¹¹. She also referred to evidence given by Jockey Bayliss, who had described "a noticeable shift from Mr Sherry"¹² and elsewhere spoke of a gradual sort of bottlenecking on both sides of the incident lines¹³. The Applicant relies upon these passages in support of her argument that insufficient weight was placed upon the actions and contribution of Jockey Sherry, the rider of Tashi.
- [12] We have not here attempted to set out all of the evidence, but only certain features of it. Experience shows that evidence given by jockeys at Stewards' Hearings is not always consistent and does not always accord with the evidence that emerges from a viewing of the race footage. There may be

³ Transcript of Stewards' Hearing lines 72-75

⁴ Ibid lines 119-122

⁵ Ibid lines 128-130

⁶ Ibid lines 179-183

⁷ Ibid lines 52-56

⁸ Ibid lines 52-56

⁹ Ibid line 22

¹⁰ Ibid lines 141-142

¹¹ Ibid lines 151-153

¹² Ibid lines 35-36

¹³ Ibid lines 101-102

several reasons why that is so, but ultimately the Panel considers that the best evidence available here derives from our own viewing of the footage.

- [13] We note that the Stewards in attendance on this particular day were Stewards of considerable experience, perhaps appropriate for a feature race meeting. Their interpretation of the race and the conclusions they have reached should not be lightly discounted.
- [14] To return now to our assessment of the race. Having watched the race footage on numerous occasions, we consider the rear footage and the head-on footage to be of greatest assistance.
- [15] So far as the rear-on footage is concerned it shows the Applicant, shortly after straightening, takes the lead and is approximately four horses off the fence. A half a length back to her outside is Jockey Mallyon on Bubba's Bay, with Abounding (Jockey Bayliss) a similar distance to his outside. Improving to Abounding's outside is Tashi (Jockey Sherry). Approaching the 200-metre mark, it appears that Floozie is shifting out and Abounding is shifting in. Between these two runners, Jockey Mallyon is three-quarters of a length back and appears to take hold, checking his mount slightly and losing his rightful running. Jockey Sherry on Tashi certainly appears to shift in with Jockey Bayliss, but from this angle he doesn't appear to dictate the line of Jockey Bayliss.
- [16] Watching the head on footage, after straightening, the Applicant on Floozie is four to five horses off the fence, taking up the lead. Approximately a length back to her outside is Bubba's Bay (Jockey Mallyon). A horse further out is Abounding (Jockey Bayliss), making his run with Tashi (Jockey Sherry) to his outside. It would appear at this stage that Jockey Sherry begins to get the better of Abounding. Running into the 200-metre mark, the Applicant's mount, Floozie, shifts out a good two horses, encroaching into the line of Jockey Mallyon. Jockey Sherry on Tashi shifts in approximately a horse, taking Abounding in with him. Three-quarters of a length back, between these runners is Bubba's Bay. At this point, Jockey Mallyon takes hold, having to check his mount, losing his rightful running.
- [17] From this viewing of the footage, the Panel concludes that the Applicant, at approximately the 300-metre mark has at least a one-horse gap between herself and Jockey Mallyon. To the outside of Jockey Mallyon, there is a neat horse gap between his mount and Jockey Bayliss, a further half-horse out is Jockey Sherry. Running into the 200-metre mark the Applicant has started to shift her ground out. Jockey Sherry then starts to shift inward, taking Jockey Bayliss in a half to three quarters of a horse which takes up the gap between Jockeys Bayliss and Mallyon. As the Applicant encroaches into Jockey Mallyon's line, this puts him in an awkward position on the hindquarters of Jockey Bayliss, which turns his mount in slightly. The running of Jockey Mallyon then closes when he has had to take hold and check his mount.
- [18] There is no doubt a shift has occurred to the outside of Jockey Mallyon when Jockey Sherry takes Jockey Bayliss in, though only slightly. This takes up the 'slack' or the gap that existed between Jockeys Bayliss and Mallyon. Jockey Sherry then straightens his mount. Importantly, Jockey Sherry does not take Jockey Bayliss on top of Jockey Mallyon.
- [19] It is our conclusion that when the Applicant encroaches into the line of Jockey Mallyon, he shifts him out slightly into the hindquarters of Jockey Bayliss, which turns his mount in and closes the gap that was there for Jockey Mallyon.

- [20] We are satisfied that the charge of careless riding is established. We are satisfied further that the main contribution to this incident was the careless riding of the Applicant. Indeed, it may be that a finding of 20% contribution on the part of Jockey Sherry may be generous to the Applicant. However, given the exigencies of proof in these matters, we are not inclined to interfere with the Steward's determination in that regard.
- [21] So far as the penalty is concerned, we've set out above the way in which the template was applied here. The finding of low level carelessness with level two consequences is consistent with the circumstances. We note again that the Stewards generously made no addition to the Applicant's penalty as they would have been entitled to do based on her record.
- [22] In the result, we are satisfied that the penalty imposed was appropriate.
- [23] Pursuant to section 252AB(1)(a) of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016*, the decision of the Panel is to confirm the racing decision the subject of this application.

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