14 February 2022

**DECISION**

**RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**DEAN HOLLAND**

**Date of hearing:** 9 February 2022

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson).

**Appearances:** Mr James Hitchcock appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr James Winks represented Mr Dean Holland.

**Charge:** Australian Rule of Racing (“AR”) 131(a) states:

A rider must not, in the opinion of the Stewards:

(a) engage in careless, reckless, improper, incompetent or foul riding.

**Particulars of charge:** Dean Holland, rider of Elite Icon, was found guilty of a charge of careless riding under the provision of AR131(a). The careless riding being that near the 900 metres he carelessly permitted his mount to shift in, unnecessarily tightening the running of Her Empire, which in consequence, was restrained to avoid heels. Dean Holland had his licence to ride in races suspended for a total of nine meetings to commence midnight 12 February, 2022 and to expire midnight 19 February, 2022 (3 metro, 6 provincial). In assessing penalty the Stewards were of the view that the incident qualified for the low-range category of carelessness and took into account his record.

**Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Dean Holland, you have pleaded “Not Guilty” to a charge of careless riding. It concerns your ride on Elite Icon in Race 1 over 1200 metres at the Moonee Valley night meeting on 4 February 2022. The other jockey involved was Mr Brett Prebble, who was riding Her Empire. Your mount was a long odds on favourite and won very comfortably. Mr Prebble’s mount was unplaced, but had shown early speed.

I have viewed both the television video and the Stewards’ video many times. You had drawn barrier 4. Mr Prebble came from gate 2. Both horses began well. Mr Prebble crossed to the rails and you crossed to his outside. I note that you had two obvious looks to your inside, one shortly after the start and one after approximately 250 metres, when you were apparently contemplating crossing towards the rails. It is apparent that you did so cross and that, for a stride or two, Mr Prebble had to steady his mount.

It is also apparent to me that you were not sufficiently clear of him when you crossed. In the interview with the Stewards, you said, for example, that you gave him “three quarters of a horse when I should have given him a full horse”. You also made comments, such as that you admitted that you did have him “unnecessarily tight” and “I may have shoved him a tad”.

Mr Prebble’s answer to the Stewards varied a little from “probably just come back on me a little bit” to “I was able to maintain my position”. He also said “he had me tight for two strides” and that he did not really have a choice as to whether he trailed your horse.

Weighing all of this up, I am of the view that the charge of careless riding has been proved to my comfortable satisfaction. The videos speak for themselves, in addition to the interviews. I am quite satisfied that you did cross Mr Prebble’s horse when not clear of it, causing it to be checked. You have virtually admitted that and the video is clear. The appeal on conviction is dismissed. I shall now hear the parties on the question of penalty.

**PENALTY**

In relation to the penalty in this matter, I am of the view that the suspension for 9 meetings is appropriate. You are a successful jockey and particularly so in recent times. However, you do not have the benefit of a particularly good record. Without going into details, the description by the Stewards of your record as being neutral seems appropriate. I appreciate that this is an important period in the racing calendar, particularly for busy and successful jockeys such as yourself, but, as stated, the period of suspension imposed by the Stewards seems to me to be appropriate. The appeal is dismissed.

Mark Howard  
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal