3 November 2021

**DECISION**

**RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**JORDAN CHILDS**

**Date of hearing:** 22 October 2021

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Judge Kathryn Kings.

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

Mr James Winks represented Mr Jordan Childs.

**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:** Mr Jordan Childs (Swiss Hero) was found guilty of a charge of careless riding under the provisions of AR131(a), the careless riding being that near the 200 metres, he permitted his mount to shift out when not sufficiently clear of Mr Cancun (NZ), resulting in that gelding being restrained when tightened for room.

**Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Jordan Childs, you have pleaded not guilty to a charge of careless riding. It involves your ride on Swiss Hero in Race 3 over 1700 metres at Geelong on Wednesday, 20 October 2021.

It is alleged by the Stewards that at the 200 metre mark you permitted your mount to shift out and when not clear of Mr Cancun ridden by Mr Declan Bates, resulting in that horse being tightened and restrained.

We have viewed the video many times. Effectively you and Mr Bates were both going for a reasonably tight run between two horses ahead of you. Essentially, you forced your mount into the gap, causing Mr Bates to have to check his mount and change course. When interviewed by Stewards, you admitted frankly that you did not know that he was there. Mr Bates said “that it could have got tight so I thought that I would just hook out in anticipation”. We accept that, as you stated, you are not one to put another jockey in a tricky situation. However, we are of the view that it was careless of you to push into the gap when not clear of Mr Bates and causing interference as a result. Thus, we find the charge proven.

**PENALTY**

In relation to penalty, we regard you as having a very good record indeed. We accept that you have had many rides since your last suspension. During that period, you were sidelined for some months with a serious injury. You have had some 490 rides since resuming, without incurring a suspension. The Stewards put the interference in the lower range and imposed a penalty of a suspension of 9 meetings. Taking into account all the circumstances, including the nature of the carelessness and the interference and your excellent record, we uphold the appeal on the question of penalty and impose a period of suspension of 7 meetings.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal