8 February 2024

**DECISION**

**RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**CHRIS DAVIS**

**Date of hearing:** 6 February 2024

**Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Melissa Mahady.

**Appearances:** Mr Damien Carr appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Ms Kirsty Davis represented Mr Chris Davis.

**Charge:** Australian Racing Rule (“AR”) 296(2)(d)(ii) states:

(2) a trainer must

(d) lodge an amendment to a Stable Return immediately if

(ii) a horse leaves or joins the trainer’s stable, or moves to another of the trainer’s premises (where the trainer’s stable is comprised of more than one premises), with the amendment to disclose the precise location of the horse.

**Particulars:** The particulars of that charge are that you, licensed trainer, Mr Chris Davis, following an audit of your stables conducted by Mr Rhys Melville and Ms Jennifer McIntosh on the 30th of November 2023, did fail to update the stable returns of 18 horses in your care.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Chris Davis is a licensed trainer and bound by the Rules of Racing. On 30 November 2023 an audit of Mr Davis’ stables was conducted by Mr Rhys Melville and Ms Jennifer McIntosh, Stewards of Racing Victoria. A number of breaches, 18 in total, was identified relating to the lodgement of returns. He was given a warning. He failed to rectify the breaches. The Stewards imposed a fine of $750.

This is an appeal from that decision.

Mr Davis has been charged under AR 296(2)(d)(ii) which provides:

(2) a trainer must

(d) lodge an amendment to a Stable Return immediately if

(ii) a horse leaves or joins the trainer’s stable, or moves to another of the trainer’s premises (where the trainer’s stable is comprised of more than one premises), with the amendment to disclose the precise location of the horse.

These rules are important for the purpose of assisting in the traceability of horses in Victoria.

The particulars of the charge are that following an audit of Mr Davis’ stables conducted on 30 November 2023 by Mr Melville and Ms McIntosh, Mr Davis failed to update the Stable Returns of 18 horses.

At the hearing before the Tribunal, Mr Davis was represented by his partner, Ms Kirsty Davis.

Ms Davis informed the Tribunal that, at the time of the offences, Mr Davis was under very significant pressures relating to family issues. He got behind with his paperwork. Mr Davis has recently been diagnosed with a health issue.

Ms Davis is a trained teacher and is seeking to return to employment, which is likely to be on a casual basis. Ms Davis said that they were struggling financially.

In all the circumstances, we impose a fine of $750 with $250 suspended for 12 months, pending no further breaches of the relevant Rules.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal