3 February 2025

**DECISION**

**RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**LIAM RIORDAN**

**Date of hearing:** 30 January 2025

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**Panel:** Magistrate Peter Reardon (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.

**Appearances:** Mr Rob Montgomery appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Liam Riordan represented himself.

**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 Liam Riordan (Redders) was found guilty of a charge of careless riding under the provisions of AR 131(a), in that near the 700 metres, he permitted his mount to shift in when not sufficiently clear of Yamashita's Gold, resulting in it being tightened onto Olatunde, resulting in Yamashita's Gold being severely checked. In the incident, Olatunde was bumped on the hindquarters, became unbalanced and shifted out. Liam Riordan had his licence to ride in races suspended for 14 race meetings, with the period to commence on Monday 27 January 2025 and expire on Friday 7 February 2025. Accordingly, Liam Riordan will be able to return to ride on Saturday 8 February 2025. In assessing penalty, account was taken of his record and that the incident was in the mid-range.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Liam Riordan, you have pleaded guilty to a charge of careless riding as set out in AR 131(a). The charge involves your riding of Redders at Sandown in Race 3 over 1000 metres for 2 year old colts and geldings on Saturday, 25 January 2025. You were found guilty by the Stewards after reserving your plea and your licence to ride was suspended for 14 race meetings, with the suspension to commence on Monday, 27 January 2025 and expire on Friday, 7 February 2025. No stay in the suspension was requested by you.

Originally the appeal by you was against the finding of guilt and severity of the penalty. You have abandoned the appeal against the finding of guilt and now are only appealing the severity of the suspension.

The careless riding occurred near the 700 metres when you permitted your mount to shift in when not sufficiently clear of Yamashita’s Gold, ridden by Mr Jamie Mott. This resulted in his horse tightened on to Olatunde. Yamashita’s Gold was severely checked, leading to it bumping onto the hindquarters of Olatunde. It became unbalanced and shifted out.

We have watched the video footage of the race and read the transcript of the Stewards Inquiry. We have noted what each jockey, including yourself, said at those proceedings.

Your previous findings of guilt have been provided to the Tribunal. The Stewards submit that you displayed a failure of your duty of care to your fellow riders by shifting in when only approximately three quarters of a length in front of Yamashita’s Gold. You should have been at least 2 lengths clear before moving into the path of that horse.

Mr Jamie Mott’s mount was severely checked and shifted on to the hind quarters of Olatunde, causing it to shift out and come into contact with Yamashita’s Gold, causing Mr Mott to be almost dislodged.

The Stewards submit that the incident was caused entirely by your carelessness. You reserved your plea at the Steward’s hearing, which is taken as a plea of Not Guilty and thereby attracted no discount.

Your riding record regarding careless riding is poor, with 4 suspensions for careless riding and multiple severe reprimands. Accordingly, you are not entitled to a discount on penalty because of your record.

You stated that most of the competing horses were having their first start and being 2 year olds, were green and racing accordingly. Further, you submitted that the interference was mainly caused by Olatunde, ridden by Mr Billy Egan, shifting on to Yamashita’s Gold.

You submitted that you may have crowded Yamashita’s Gold a little, but your horse kept its line. Although you pleaded guilty to careless riding you seemed to indicate that Mr Egan was at fault, rather than yourself and accordingly the penalty should be reduced.

In our view, you were at fault and careless. Allowing for the fact that the horses were green you showed little regard for your fellow riders by taking the running of Yamashita’s Gold when there was insufficient room. This lead to the contact with Olatunde and the severe checking Yamashita’s Gold. The end result was that jockey Mr Mott was almost dislodged.

You have a less than flattering riding record in the last 12 months, with 4 suspensions for careless riding and multiple severe reprimands.

In our view, you were clearly responsible for the interference and there was little or no contribution by the riders of the other mounts. We accept that the horses were green.

Accordingly, in these circumstances we have come to the conclusion that there will be no reduction in penalty and the appeal against penalty is dismissed.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal