

STEWARDS DECISION

OFFICE OF RACING INTEGRITY

and

BLAIR FIDLER

Date of hearing:	25 th March, 2024
Stewards Panel:	Neil Finnigan (Chair), Roger Brown and Carolyn Ellson
Respondent:	Blair Fidler
Rule:	Australian Harness Rules of Racing AHR Rule 231 (2)
Charge:	Misconduct
Plea:	Guilty
Inquiry Decision:	\$1000 fine (wholly suspended for 2 years)

Stewards inquired into allegations that Mr Blair Fidler had approached Ms Batula Malqued in an intimidatory manner before the last race at the Launceston Pacing Club on Saturday January 13th, 2024, whilst she was leaving the course.

Preliminary interviews were conducted on January 16th, 2024, with Ms Malqued, Mr Max Wadley, Mr Ben Yole, Mr Wayne Yole and Mr Fidler.

At the inquiry Mr Fidler confirmed he had approached Ms Malqued over concerns he had with facebook posts she had posted regarding his father, who according to Mr Fidler, when questioned, Ms Malqued stated she did not know Mr Fidler Snr. Mr

Fidler was able to provide evidence confirming comments had been made about Mr Fidler Snr by Ms Malqued.

Mr Fidler now realises this was the wrong approach to the issue and can appreciate how Ms Malqued may have felt intimidated. It was clear to the Stewards Mr Fidler was remorseful for his actions.

When questioned whether he had raised his voice, Mr Fidler stated that he was stern but did not feel he yelled at any point during the confrontation, which he recalls lasted between 60 and 90 seconds, adding that when Mr Wadley entered the conversation, he left the area.

In considering the matter in its entirety and if charge(s) should one be laid, Stewards considered the following: Mr Fidler's acknowledgement of his actions, his forthright evidence, his manner throughout the inquiry, his obvious remorse, and the seriousness of the potential breach in totality. Also of consideration was the knowledge that all penalties should be designed to not only be a fair punishment to the offender, but also a message to the industry as a whole.

Stewards laid the following charge under AHR Rule 231(2) which reads: -

A persons shall not misconduct himself in any way.

Mr Fidler pled guilty to the charge.

Stewards in considering all mentioned above, as well as Mr Fidler's age, along with his guilty plea, fined him \$1000, to be wholly suspended for a period of 2 years.

Mr Fidler was advised of his right of appeal.

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