

STEWARDS DECISION

OFFICE OF RACING INTEGRITY

and

ROBERT WALTERS

Date of hearing:	29 th May, 2024
Stewards Panel:	Neil Finnigan (Chair) and Gavin Griffin
Respondent:	Robert Walters
Rule:	Australian Harness Rules of Racing AHR Rule 209
Charge:	Knowingly or Recklessly Furnish false Information
Plea:	Guilty
Inquiry Decision:	\$2000 fine (\$1000 wholly suspended for 2 years)

Stewards questioned licensee Mr Robert Walters', concerned with evidence he had tendered at a previous licence inquiry. At the commencement of today's inquiry Mr Walters admitted submitting to ORI falsified documents.

Stewards, after investigating the circumstances into why and how Mr Walters had falsified the documents, subsequently charged him for breaching Australian Harness Racing (AHR) Rule 209, which reads:

A person employed, engaged or participating in the harness Racing Industry shall not knowingly or recklessly furnish information to the Controlling Body, the Stewards or anyone else.

Stewards on charging Mr Walters under the provisions of AHR Rule 209, alleged that, when required to show proof of water supply to his proposed training site, he falsified the required documents by signing such without the knowledge of the person he purported to be.

Mr Walters pled guilty to the charge.

In considering the matter of penalty, Stewards considered the following: Mr Walters' acknowledgement of his actions, his forthright evidence, his manner throughout the inquiry, and the seriousness of the breach in totality. Stewards also took into consideration 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 in considering all mentioned above, as well as Mr Walter's guilty plea, fined him \$2000, of which \$1000 is to be suspended for a period of 2 years.

Mr Walters was advised of his right of appeal.

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