

Appeal decision

Date: 25 November 2015

Code of racing: Thoroughbred

Appeal panel: Mr B. Miller (chair), Mr P. James and Mr G. Casey.

Appearances: Mr G. Prentice appeared on behalf of jockey J. Morris.
Mr I. Brown, stipendiary steward, appeared on behalf of the stewards.

Decision being appealed: Suspension of licence to ride in races for a period covered by seven meetings - AR137(a).

Appeal result: Upheld.

Extract of proceedings—in the matter of the L. J. Hooker Coomera Maiden Handicap at the Gold Coast on 8 November 2015. Jockey: Jackson Morris

THE CHAIRMAN: Jockey Jackson Morris was the rider of Natural Sign when it raced in the 900 metre Maiden Handicap at the Gold Coast on Saturday 8 November. The transcript identifies that there were four riders involved with four horses in what can be seen to be an incident which resulted in jockey Rolls, the rider of Jerry's Witness, being inconvenienced. Jockey Morris, on Natural Sign, was in the rail position, jockey Dykes on Honey Ko two wide, jockey Fawke on Saldana three out and jockey Rolls was in a four wide position on Jerry's Witness.

It is quite apparent that jockey Morris had indicated during the course of the transcript that he had moved he thought to at least 1½ horses out. His advocate, Mr Prentice, has pointed out on the film that that seems to be not the position and the Board agrees. Jockey Morris may well have been somewhat emotional when he made the admission, but be that as it may the horse did move out, but to the Board's way of thinking he moved no more than a half horse and perhaps on one occasion to a full horse width out.

Nevertheless, the horse that he was riding did move, and he made then after some short period an attempt to restrain the horse back and he blamed the bit that was on the horse and the intractable habit that the horse had adopted in rounding the corner.

The members of this panel have considered the film and listened to what Mr Prentice has had to say and what Mr Brown, the steward representing Racing Queensland, have provided. It seems quite apparent that there was interference to the horse in question, and the question to be decided is whether or not that interference can be visited on Jackson Morris.



Our view of the matter is that if it was the fault of Morris it was only partially his fault and we don't believe that he was the single major cause of the incident in question. He may have been a contributing factor, but not, in our view, one that would have warranted a penalty being imposed.

In the circumstances we uphold the appeal and find accordingly.

Further right of appeal information: The appellant and the stewards may appeal to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal(QCAT) within **14 days of the date of this decision**. Information in relation to appeals to QCAT may be obtained by telephone on (07) 3247 3302 or via the Internet at www.qcat.qld.gov.au

