

RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

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APPEAL DECISION

STEPHANIE THORNTON

and

RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS

Date of Hearing: 8 December 2016.

Panel: Judge Bowman (Chair).

Appearances:Mr Geoff Hausfeld appeared on behalf of the stewards.Mr Des O'Keeffe appeared on behalf of Ms Thornton.

At Terang on Monday 5 December 2016, apprentice jockey Stephanie Thornton was found guilty of a charge of careless riding on her mount *Written Ace* in Race 3 the *Crownbet F&M Maiden Plate* (1200m).

The careless riding being that, passing the 1000m she permitted her mount to shift in when insufficiently clear of *Classical Lady* which was crowded in onto *Chex Moi* (*NZ*), resulting in *Classical Lady* being checked by its rider.

Ms Thornton had her permit to ride in races suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Wednesday, 7 December 2016 and to expire at the completion of the Mornington race meeting on Wednesday, 14 December 2016 – a total of 9 race meetings (3 metro, 6 provincial).

In determining the penalty Stewards took into account Stephanie Thornton's record, deemed the carelessness to fall into the low range and took into account the fact that *Wasabi* had shifted to the outside of *Written Ace* during the incident, which had a bearing on Stephanie Thornton being able to relieve the pressure to *Classical Lady*.

A Notice of Appeal against **the decision and severity of the penalty** was lodged on Monday, 5 December 2016. A stay of proceedings was not requested.

DECISION: Appeal dismissed. Penalty to remain standing.