



APPEAL RESULT

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FROM: Registrar – Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

DATE: 7 August 2013

SUBJECT: **APPEAL HEARING RESULT – APPRENTICE JOCKEY:
CHAD SCHOFIELD**

Panel Mr Brian Forrest (Deputy Chair), Mr Graeme Johnson, Mr Darren McGee.

Appearances Mr James Williams appeared on behalf of Mr Schofield.
Mr James Hitchcock appeared on behalf of the Stewards

At Geelong Synthetic on Friday, 2 August 2013 apprentice jockey Chad Schofield was found guilty of a charge of careless riding on his mount *Northern Lyric* in Race 1 the *GRC Function & Event Centre Maiden Plate* (1100m).

The careless riding being that at approximately the 800m he failed to make sufficient effort to prevent his mount from shifting in when not sufficiently clear of *Charlie On Guitar* which was checked by its rider. In issuing the charge Stewards acknowledge that *Colors Of The Wind* was racing to his outside but do not believe had any bearing on the incident.

Mr Schofield had his licence to ride in races suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Tuesday, 6 August 2013 and to expire at midnight on Friday, 16 August 2013 - a total of 10 race meetings (3 metro, 7 provincial).

In assessing penalty Stewards took into account the careless riding was in the low range.

A Notice of Appeal against **the decision and severity of the penalty** was lodged on Monday, 5 August 2013.

A stay of proceedings was not requested.

DECISION: **Appeal dismissed. Penalty to remain standing.**

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

MR B. FORREST, Deputy Chairman
MR G. JOHNSON
MR D. McGEE

EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

DECISION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE GRC FUNCTION AND EVENT CENTRE
MAIDEN PLATE OVER 1100 METRES AT GEELONG SYNTHETIC
ON 2/8/13**

APPRENTICE JOCKEY: CHAD SCHOFIELD

MELBOURNE

WEDNESDAY, 7 AUGUST 2013

MR J. HITCHCOCK appeared on behalf of the RVL Stewards

MR J. WILLIAMS appeared on behalf of the Appellant

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Board has now reached a decision in this matter and it is a unanimous decision of the Board.

Jockey, Chad Schofield, was found guilty of careless riding on his mount, Northern Lyric, at Geelong on 2 August and suspended from race riding for 10 race meetings from midnight last night, 7 August, until midnight, 16 August 2013.

Chad Schofield has appealed the conviction and penalty on the stated ground that the vision does not support the charge. In the transcript of the Stewards' inquiry on race day, steward, Mr Bettess, who was stationed in the tower near the 700-metre mark and with an angled view of proceedings, observed as the field approached the 800 metres, Thomas Sadler, rider of Charlie on Guitar, on Schofield's inside, and Ben Melham, rider of Tonza Rossa, on Sadler's inside, were tightened when Schofield moved forward and crossed when approximately three-quarters of a length clear of Sadler, causing Sadler and Melham to take hold.

According to Stewards, Schofield elected to keep riding forward and failed to make sufficient effort to prevent his mount shifting in when not sufficiently clear of Sadler. In his defence both before the Stewards and here today, Schofield's evidence may be summarised as follows: he heard yelling on his inside, looked across and was surprised there were three horses inside his mount. He was going across to clear, but realised he was unable to do so. He straightened and rode his mount forward for four to five strides and still was

not clear. Approaching the turn, Daniel Stackhouse, riding Colors of the Wind, on Schofield's outside, put pressure on Schofield's mount. He believes Stackhouse was a factor in the tightening of the horses on Schofield's inside. Schofield acknowledged that he may have rolled in and shaved Sadler, and the reason Sadler eased his mount was because he, Schofield, and Stackhouse had come in from out wide.

Essentially, Mr Williams' submission on behalf of Schofield was that Schofield was a victim of circumstances and that he had taken every step that he could have reasonably been expected to.

Having heard the evidence, read the transcript, viewed the film and considered the submissions by Mr Hitchcock and Mr Williams, the Board is satisfied that the riding of Chad Schofield on this occasion fell within the description of "careless". On his own admission, Schofield has shaved Sadler. The Board also accepts that Daniel Stackhouse was entitled to be where he was and it is not a defence to the charge to attribute the reason for Schofield's riding on this occasion to the horse on his outside. Accordingly, the Board dismisses the appeal against conviction.

The decision of the Board is to dismiss the appeal on penalty. In the view of the Board, the penalty imposed by Stewards is not excessive and it would be an improper exercise of power to tinker with what is considered by the Board to be within the range and within reason. The appeal is dismissed.
