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## **APPEAL DECISION**

### **BEAU MERTENS and RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS**

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**Date of Hearing:** 10 April 2017

**Heard By:** Judge Bowman (Chair).

**Appearances:** Mr Rob Montgomery appeared on behalf of the stewards.  
Mr Matt Hyland appeared on behalf of Mr Mertens.

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At Sandown on Wednesday 5 April 2017, apprentice jockey Beau Mertens pleaded guilty to a charge of careless riding on his mount *Single Note* in Race 4 the *Joe Chila Memorial* (1600m).

The carelessness being that approaching the 1200m he permitted his mount to shift in when not sufficiently clear of *Fast Approaching* resulting in that mare having to be steadied to avoid the heels of *Single Note*.

Mr Mertens had his permit to ride in races suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Saturday, 8 April 2017 and to expire at midnight on Saturday, 15 April 2017 - a total of 7 race meetings (1 metro, 6 provincial).

In assessing penalty Stewards took into account his guilty plea and excellent record (he has not been suspended for careless riding since August 2016) and that the carelessness was in the low range.

A Notice of Appeal against **the severity of the penalty** was lodged on Wednesday 5 April 2017. A stay of proceedings was not requested.

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**DECISION: Appeal allowed.**

**Penalty varied so that the period of suspension expires at midnight on Friday, 14 April 2017 (6 race meetings).**

**Georgie Gavin  
Registrar - Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board**