



## APPEAL RESULT

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Chief Executive  
Group Integrity Services  
Group Racing and Group Racing Development  
ARB, ATA, VJA  
Office of Racing  
T Moxon – National Drug Register  
Racing Press

**FROM:** Registrar – Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

**DATE:** 2 February 2016

**SUBJECT:** **APPEAL HEARING RESULT – APPRENTICE JOCKEY: HARRY COFFEY**

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**Panel** Judge Bowman (Chair).

**Appearances** Mr Wade Hadley appeared on behalf of the stewards.  
Mr John Didham appeared on behalf of Mr Coffey.

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At Moonee Valley on Friday 29 January 2016, apprentice jockey Harry Coffey pleaded guilty to a charge of careless riding on his mount *Costa Plenty* in Race 3 the *Quest Moonee Valley Handicap* (1000m) at Moonee Valley on Friday, 29 January 2016.

The carelessness being that for some distance approaching the 800m he permitted his mount to shift in carrying *Autumn Time*, which was racing tight to his inside, inwards resulting in tightening to *Leucura* which had to be checked and lost its rightful running due to the pressure on his outside.

Mr Coffey had his permit to ride in races suspended for a period to commence at midnight on Saturday, 30 January 2016 and to expires at midnight on Sunday, 7 February 2016.

In assessing penalty Stewards took into account Harry Coffey's guilty plea and excellent record and that the incident was in the mid-range.

A Notice of Appeal against **the severity of the penalty** was lodged on Saturday, 30 January 2016. 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, 5 February 2016 (8 race meetings).**

**TRANSCRIPT OF  
PROCEEDINGS**

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**RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE J. BOWMAN, Chairman**

**EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE IN THE MATTER OF THE QUEST  
MOONEE VALLEY HANDICAP OVER 1000 METRES AT  
MOONEE VALLEY ON 29/1/16**

**APPRENTICE JOCKEY: HARRY COFFEY**

**MELBOURNE**

**TUESDAY, 2 JANUARY 2016**

MR W. HADLEY appeared on behalf of the RVL Stewards

MR J. DIDHAM appeared on behalf of the Appellant

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CHAIRMAN: Harry Coffey, you have pleaded guilty to a charge of careless riding in race 3 at Moonee Valley on Friday, 26 January 2016. You permitted your mount, Costa Plenty, to shift in on Autumn Time, ridden by Chris Symons, which in turn caused Leucura, ridden by Nick Heywood, to be checked and lose its rightful running.

The Stewards suspended you effectively for 10 meetings and whilst pleading guilty to the offence, you are appealing in relation to the severity of that penalty. There is no doubt that you are a leading apprentice about to come out of your time. You have an excellent record. You are quite a high-profile rider who has effectively been the face of a well-known charity. To use a footballing phrase, you could well be described as an ornament to the game.

Having viewed the patrol film, I can see why a plea of guilty was justified and also see why the Stewards considered the carelessness to be in the moderate range, not that this Board has to find various ranges or fix penalties on the basis of them. Obviously each case must be viewed on its merits and penalties are applied that are fair to all. In using range, the Stewards are trying to demonstrate this fairness and impose consistent penalties.

In my view, the running of Nick Heywood's mount was ultimately taken as a result of Chris Symons' horse being forced inwards by Harry Coffey's mount. This is certainly more than slight interference.

Mr Hadley very fairly described Harry Coffey's record as "brilliant" for any rider. He has had more than 700 rides since his last suspension. That is perhaps another reason why he could be seen as an ornament to the game.

Mainly because of this extraordinarily good record and because of the early plea of guilty, I am prepared to uphold the appeal and reduce the penalty to eight meetings which, if my mathematics are correct, would mean that Harry Coffey could resume riding after midnight, Friday, 5 February 2016.

I wish to make two further observations: I do not want to be seen, as chairman as I am when sitting on these appeals, attempting to reduce the normal periods of disqualification imposed by the Stewards. Secondly, I do not want it thought that these appeals are hearings where every player wins a prize. Harry Coffey's exceptionally good record for any rider, apprentice or senior jockey, has weighed heavily in my thinking. It is indeed exceptional, and he has also made other contributions to help the image of racing. The penalty is reduced accordingly.

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