



**Racing  
Victoria**

**RACING APPEALS  
AND  
DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

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**DECISION**

**RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS  
*and*  
NICK SOUQUET**

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**Date of Hearing:** 15 April 2019

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chair)

**Appearances:** Mr Daniel Bolkunowicz appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Matthew Hyland appeared on behalf of Mr Nick Souquet.

**Charge:** Breach of AR 115(1)(c)  
(1) A jockey or apprentice jockey must not:

*(c) bet, or have any interest in a bet, or facilitate a bet, on any race.*

**Particulars:** The RV Stewards allege that Mr Souquet made, and/or facilitated the making of, and/or had an interest in, 10 bets on thoroughbred horse races on 10 November 2018, with the bets placed totalling \$125.00.

None of the bets placed were on races Mr Souquet was involved in.

**Plea:** Guilty.

**Decision:** The Board finds the charge proved.

Mr Souquet convicted and suspended for 9 weeks commencing today, 15 April 2019.

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Grace Gugliandolo  
Registrar - Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board

**TRANSCRIPT OF  
PROCEEDINGS**

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**RACING APPEALS AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

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

**EXTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**DECISION**

**RACING VICTORIA STEWARDS**

**- and -**

**NICK SOUQUET**

**RACING VICTORIA CENTRE, FLEMINGTON**

**MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2019**

MR D. BOLKUNOWICZ appeared on behalf of the RVL Stewards

MR M. HYLAND appeared on behalf of Mr N. Souquet

CHAIRMAN: Mr Nick Souquet, the Stewards have charged you with a breach of AR 115(1)(c), in that being a licensed jockey, you made or facilitated or had an interest in the making of 10 bets on thoroughbred horse racing. This occurred on 10 November 2018 and involved a total outlay of \$125.

You have pleaded guilty to the charge. It is not suggested that the bets were on horses that you were riding or concerned races in which you were involved. Whilst you have now pleaded guilty, you were not completely forthcoming as to your betting activity when first interviewed by Stewards on 11 February 2019. Essentially you and your wife suggested that they were bets placed by her and without your involvement, save that the bets were in an account in your name. However, you have pleaded guilty and apparently indicated that you would so plead approximately a week ago.

Ultimately it was made clear that you were so pleading on the basis that you were responsible for the betting account but you have maintained the position that it was your wife who actually placed the bets. The situation has perhaps become a little complicated as a result of the Stewards' interviews with you and your wife being conducted over the telephone, as you were apparently on holidays. No follow-up interview was conducted in order to clarify how and why you were pleading.

You are a senior jockey aged 45 years and the bulk of your riding is in the north-east of this state and particularly over the border in southern New South Wales. You are a busy and successful jockey in those areas. You have no

relevant prior convictions and have been engaging in race riding for some 30 years.

This is the fourth matter involving a breach of this rule that has been before me in recent weeks. I would imagine that this sudden surge in the number of this particular offence results from the Stewards conducting a review of the betting accounts of jockeys. It is highly understandable that the Stewards should conduct such a burst of such investigations from time to time. Jockeys betting on thoroughbred racing or permitting their betting accounts to be used for such an activity is bad for the image of racing. Whether such permission be given deliberately or whether such betting results from a failure to supervise carefully and properly the use of such an account, jockeys must realise that they are not permitted to bet on thoroughbred events or permit any betting account that they may have to be so used.

I take into account the fact that you earn the vast bulk of your income from race riding and not from riding trackwork. You are a married man with three young children. A period of suspension would hit you hard, apart from the damage done to your reputation. The Stewards do not suggest that disqualification is warranted. However, I would agree that a suspension is almost inevitable.

You are not a young apprentice learning the ropes. You are an experienced senior jockey. You should be a role model, particularly in relation to the area in which you do your riding. The penalty imposed on you will reflect that, but

I also take into account that the betting offences with which you are charged did not involve very large sums and took place on the one day.

The bottom line is that the period of suspension at which I have arrived is one of nine weeks, which effectively means that you are suspended until mid-June, which is approximately two months.

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