



PO Box 14
Clayfield, Queensland, 4011

e queensland.jockeys@bigpond.com
w australianjockeys.org

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Queensland Jockeys Association

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Clayfield Q 4011

queensland.jockeys@bigpond.com.au

To:

Committee Secretary

Education, Employment and Training Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane Q 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022

The Queensland Jockeys Association is supportive of the Bill to amend the Racing Integrity Amendment act, although we an issue with a component of the Bill and request that they be reviewed.

Initially we requested a stay period from the existing 9 day period to 15 days as we have pointed out that the majority of jockeys are booked a minimum of 2 weeks (14 days) in advance now and what happens is that a leading jockey is engaged and betting has commenced on races a long way in advance and this could lead to the loss of punter and industry confidence and the owner/trainer being disadvantaged by having to remove a jockey of a certain stature and replace the jockey with someone not with the level of experience or expertise.

With Division 5 - Stays of stewards' racing decisions – As the situation stands at present, once a decision is made by stewards, the jockey or trainer normally has a stay period of 9 days and in the scenario of a jockey being suspended on a Wednesday when it appears as though the Panel would be looking at meeting on a Tuesday, that would make it Day 6 before a jockey or trainers appeal could be heard

which would disadvantage all parties as booking have already been made for the following Saturday and a scenario as I pointed out earlier would take effect.

And in the event, that the panel cannot meet for whatever reason, the jockey/trainer should have the right to plead a case before the suspension being imposed due to the panel not being able to meet or due to bookings already been made for the following Saturday.

We request that this potential amendment be looked and amended as the model was based on Victoria but it is different in Queensland where a large portion of our racing is on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays which disadvantages Owners, Trainers, jockeys and the punting public who are the lifeblood of racing in Queensland as they will potentially be disadvantaged if a jockey has a hearing on day 5 or 6 of their 9 day stay as they will need to be replaced.

Yours faithfully

Queensland Jockeys Association committee

