

22 December 2015

## NZTR SUSPENDS HANDICAPPER

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has suspended handicapper Dennis Quirke for betting on New Zealand thoroughbred races.

Mr Quirke was immediately suspended from domestic handicapping duties when the betting activity was identified by the Racing Integrity Unit (RIU) last Thursday, 17 December 2015.

Mr Quirke has also been charged with breaching the Rules of Racing by the RIU.

"The integrity of thoroughbred racing is of the utmost importance to NZTR and we must have a zero tolerance to matters of this nature," NZTR Chairman, Dr Alan Jackson said.

The RIU charges involve 14 bets, totalling \$627, placed by Mr Quirke on five New Zealand thoroughbred races, over three separate days, between August 8 2015 and October 26 2015. The largest individual bet was a \$55 fixed-odds win bet on the favourite in a set weight maiden race.

In addition to suspending Mr Quirke, NZTR has immediately conducted an independent rating review of all horses in the five races on which Mr Quirke placed a bet.

The review was done by Greg Carpenter, Head of Handicapping for Racing Victoria. Mr Carpenter confirmed that all pre-race and post-race ratings were in accordance with the parameters of the NZTR handicapping guidelines.

A more wide-ranging rating review is also underway and has not identified any areas of concern regarding the ratings of horses during the period of Mr Quirke's employment.

"While deeply disappointed with Mr Quirke's actions, we are confident that the integrity of the handicapping process remains intact," Dr Jackson ended.

Ends

For more information  
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