

NZ Metro TC 28 June 2020 - R 1 - Chair, Mr R McKenzie

Rules:

[869\(2\) & Use of the Whip Regulations](#)

Name(s):

S L Wigg
Licensed Advanced Amateur Driver

Charge:

Facts:

admitted

Following the running of Race 1, Mike Stratford Memorial (Amateur Drivers) Mobile Pace, an information was filed by Stipendiary Steward, Mr P Williams, against Licensed Advanced Amateur Driver, Ms S L Wigg, alleging that Ms Wigg, as the driver of CHANGEAROUND in the race, used her whip on more occasions than permitted by Clause (b) of the Use of the Whip Regulations.

Ms Wigg had signed the Statement by the Respondent on the information form indicating that she admitted the breach and she confirmed this at the hearing of the information, at which she was present.

Rule 869 provides: -

(2) No horseman shall during any race use a whip in a manner in contravention of the Use of the Whip Regulations made by the Board.

The Use of the Whip Regulations provides as follows:

(b) No horseman is permitted to use their whip in a striking motion on more than ten occasions inside the final 400 metres. This is inclusive of "backhanders" and the use applies to the horse, harness and/or sulky.

Mr Williams showed a video replay of the final 400 metres of the race. He pointed out CHANGEAROUND, driven by Ms Wigg, taking the lead outside a tiring runner as the field turned into the home straight. He pointed out the horse run slightly wide on the turn, prior to Ms Wigg drawing her whip and using it on 15 occasions from that point to the finishing line. This included three backhanders, Mr Williams said.

Ms Wigg said that she had admitted the breach, but submitted that the final three alleged strikes (the "backhanders" referred to by Mr Williams) were mere flicks through the horse's tail, rather than strikes. The number of strikes, in her opinion, was "around about 11", she said. Mr Williams submitted that there had been clear movement of the elbow so, in the Stewards' view, they were clearly strikes.

The Committee noted that CHANGEAROUND finished in 2nd placing, a half-length from the winner.

Decision:

Ms Wigg having admitted the breach, the charge is found proved.