



GRA PRESS COMMUNIQUE

JOCKEY VAN NIEKERK (ISIKWISHIKWISHI)

The Stewards completed an inquiry into an incident in race 4 of the 15th racemeeting, The Blue Marlin Trophy, ran over 1400m on the 6th September 2026.

Jockey Van Niekerk was charged for a breach of Rule 414(g) in that whilst riding ISIKWISHIKWISHI in race 4, The Blue Marlin Trophy over 1400m on the 6th September 2026, he carelessly allowed his mount to shift inwards shortly after passing the 600m when insufficiently clear of SALT 'N PEPPA, resulting in SALT 'N PEPPA clipping the heels of ISIKWISHIKWISHI, stumbling, with jockey Nunes becoming severely unbalanced. Jockey Van Niekerk pleaded not guilty. Both jockeys Van Niekerk and Nunes gave evidence at a hearing.

After considering the evidence and reviewing the film of the race, the Stewards found jockey Van Niekerk guilty as charged.

In deciding upon the penalty, the Stewards gave an opportunity to put forward his mitigation. Taking into account his mitigator factors and the serious nature of the incident, jockey Van Niekerk was inflicted with a suspension from riding in races for 3 Mauritian racemeetings together with a fine of Rs 50,000.

The Board of Stipendiary Stewards

This Wednesday 16 September 2026

Gambling Regulatory Authority

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