

14 October 2009

Equestrian Australia (EA) has suspended George Sheridan and Aaron Moyes under EA's Constitution and Member Protection Policy.

The Board has determined that being charged with a criminal offence is a breach of the sport's Code of Conduct and brings Equestrian sport and EA into disrepute. It also brings the members themselves into disrepute.

Relevant provisions of the Member Protection Policy are:

- 9.2 *If there is reasonable cause to believe that an offence or breach of this policy is being investigated by a relevant authority (an ASC endorsed National Sporting Organisation/ Police/ Department of Community Services, or other) EFA may order that the person/ club/ organisation complained about be:*
- a) *suspended from any role, accreditations or activities with EFA, EFA Branches and/or relevant Club; and/or*
 - b) *banned from any events or activities held by or sanctioned by EFA, EFA Branches and/or relevant Club; and/or*
 - c) *required not to contact or in any way associate with the complainant or other persons about whom the alleged breach relates pending the determination of the hearing.*

The sanctions are imposed after the members were charged with the criminal offence of 'sexual intercourse without consent'. The sanctions are not imposed on the basis that the members are guilty of the charge that they will face in court.

The sanctions imposed are:

- **suspension from participation in Equestrian events and activities endorsed by EA and/or its Branches including attendance as a spectator, until 15 April 2010, and**
- **suspension from membership of any EA squads and associated programs until 15 April 2010 or until the criminal case has been determined or has otherwise been resolved (whichever is the later).**

(Note: EA will recommend to the New South Wales Institute of Sport that it take similar action.)

The criminal charges arise out of an alleged incident that took place in October 2009.

EA notes that the members have pleaded not guilty to the criminal charge.

As this matter is presently before the courts, EA will be making no further comment on this case at this point.

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