

## Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit

and

Jabez Johnstone

<b>Inquiry Date</b>	1 April 2026
<b>Decision Makers</b>	T T Styles, J W Marsh, T Harding, K Batten
<b>Respondent</b>	Apprentice J. Johnstone accompanied by Licensed Trainer Ms. S Cotton
<b>Rule</b>	<i>AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing</i> <i>A person must not engage in:</i> <i>(a) conduct prejudicial to the image, interests, integrity, or welfare of racing, whether or not that conduct takes place within a racecourse or elsewhere.</i>
<b>Charge</b>	On Saturday 21 March 2026 you were a party involved in willful damage to property at the Tasmania Golf Club, which constitutes conduct prejudicial to the image of racing.
<b>Plea</b>	Guilty
<b>Penalty</b>	License to ride in races suspended for a period of 14 days to commence midnight 8 April 2026 and to expire midnight 22 April 2026. Stewards granted a penalty remission of 1 day with the suspension to expire midnight 21 April 2026.
<b>Summary of Facts</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mr. Johnstone was at all relevant times a Tasracing Licensed Apprentice Jockey and a person bound by the Australian Rules of Racing.</li><li>2. On Sunday 22 March 2026, Stewards were notified of an alleged incident at the Tasmania Golf Club on Saturday 21 March 2026, in which Jabez Johnstone was alleged to have been involved.</li><li>3. An investigation into the alleged incident was undertaken by Tasracing Integrity Unit Investigator Mr. Darrin Smart. The results of the investigation found that Jabez Johnstone and another male attended the Tasmania Golf Club at approximately 5:00pm on Saturday 21 March 2026 and hired a golf cart prior to commencing a round of golf.</li></ol>

4. The investigation also revealed that during the round, witnesses observed the golf cart being driven over the green on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole resulting in the flagstick being snapped. A similar incident occurred on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole, where the cup was completely removed from the green. As a result of these incidents, cosmetic damage was also caused to the golf cart.
5. At an inquiry on 1 April 2026, Apprentice Jabez Johnstone, accompanied by his Master, Miss Sarah Cotton, pleaded guilty to a charge issued pursuant to AR 228(a) in that on Saturday 21 March 2026 he was involved in willful damage to property at the Tasmania Golf Club, which constituted conduct prejudicial to the image of racing.
6. Pursuant to AR 226, Apprentice Johnstone's license to ride in races will be suspended for a period of 14 days. Pursuant to LR 4.14 this suspension will take effect at midnight 8 April 2026 and expire at midnight 22 April 2026. Stewards granted a penalty remission of 1 day with the suspension to expire midnight 21 April 2026.

## Penalty Discussion

In determining penalty, the Decision Makers carefully considered all available evidence including but not limited to:

- Apprentice Johnstone's plea of guilty.
- His disciplinary history and that there have been no previous offences under this rule.
- His remorse and acknowledgement that this was conduct not acceptable and his intention to reimburse the Tasmania Golf Club for their costs incurred.
- The important upcoming riding commitments which had Stewards imposed immediate suspension of his license would have a significant negative impact on owners, trainers and race clubs.

Additionally, whilst the above facts go in favor of Apprentice Johnstone, Decision Makers also considered:

- A licensed person should be mindful at all times of conducting themselves in a proper manner as if this is not the case it can reflect poorly on the industry.
- Penalties must also have a factor of deterrence, not only to Apprentice Johnstone but all Licensed Persons, that their conduct will not be acceptable should there be a breach of this rule.

Apprentice Jabez Johnstone and his Master Miss Sarah Cotton were advised of their rights to appeal the Stewards decision.

Dated: 1 April 2026