

Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit

and

Luke Hooper

Date of Decision	Tuesday 21 st July 2026
Decision Makers	J W Marsh (Chair), T T Styles, A D Hyde
Rule	AHRR 194(b)
Charge	Unregistered Substances A person who: (b) Has in his possession or on his premises or under his control; Any substance or preparation that is not registered, labelled, prescribed or obtained in compliance with relevant State and Commonwealth legislation is guilty of an offence.
Plea	Guilty
Penalty	Fine of \$400
Summary of Facts	1. Mr. Hooper was at all relevant times a Tasracing Licensed Harness Trainer and Driver and as such a person bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules. 2. On 10th May 2026 members of the Tasracing Integrity Unit attended premises at 77 Karoola Road, Karoola to conduct a stable inspection and out of competition blood sampling. The premises were occupied by licensed trainers Mr. Connor Crook, Ms. Jordan Chibnall and Mr. Luke Hooper. All trainers share the location but each maintains separate gear rooms, medication storage and treatment records. 3. The inspection was conducted with Body Worn Camera footage being activated. 4. During the inspection of Mr. Hooper's gear room, a syringe containing a clear substance was located inside a cupboard. Mr. Hooper stated that the syringe contained Flunixin and that it had likely been prepared but not administered to treat his horse "My Mate Luke", who was suffering from colitis.

5. A vial of Flunixin was observed on a nearby shelf, however the liquid in the vial appeared to be less viscous than the substance in the syringe. The syringe was subsequently seized to conduct further analysis.
6. On 16th June 2026, the Tasracing Integrity Unit received correspondence from Racing Analytical Services Limited advising that the contents of the syringe had been identified as Hyaluronic Acid.
7. On 16th June 2026, Tasracing Integrity Unit Investigator, Mr. Darren Smart conducted a telephone interview with Mr. Hooper regarding the findings from Racing Analytical Services Limited. Mr. Hooper made admissions that upon reflection he recognized that the substance in all probability was Hyaluronic Acid. Further Mr. Hooper stated that the syringe had been given to him by Mr. Crook and was intended to be used on his stepdaughter's pony which had sclerosis and not administered to any racehorses.
8. At an inquiry on 21st July 2026, Mr. Hooper accepted responsibility for possessing an unlabelled and unregistered product but maintained he did not intend to mislead the investigators. Mr. Hooper also provided the panel with a veterinary certificate for his stepdaughter's pony "Extra Fortune" confirming mild sclerosis.
9. Mr. Hooper pleaded guilty to a charge issued pursuant to AHRR 194(b). The particulars of the charge being that Mr. Hooper a licensed Tasracing Harness Trainer and Driver did have on his premises on 10th May 2026 a preparation being Hyaluronic Acid that was not labelled, prescribed or obtained in compliance with relevant State or Commonwealth legislation.
10. Stewards fined Mr. Hooper \$400 for the breach of AHRR 194(b)

Penalty Discussion

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

- Mr. Hooper's plea of guilty.
- His disciplinary history particularly no previous breaches of the relevant rule.
- His verbal submissions, evidence provided and personal circumstances.
- That a penalty should be a deterrent both general and specific.
- Penalty precedents for similar breaches.

Mr. Hooper was advised of his right to appeal the Stewards decisions to the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board.