

Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit

and

Monica Ryan

Date of Decision Tuesday 21st July 2026

Decision Makers J W Marsh (Chair), T T Styles, A D Hyde

Rule AR 252 (1)

Charge Possession of medication/substance/preparation in breach of legislation

A person must not have in his or her possession or on his or her premises any medication, substance or preparation which has not been registered, labelled, prescribed, dispensed or obtained in accordance with applicable Commonwealth and State legislation.

Plea Guilty

Penalty Fine of \$400

Summary of Facts

1. Ms. Ryan was at all relevant times a Tasracing Licensed Thoroughbred Trainer and as such a person bound by the Australian Rules of Racing.
2. On 6th January 2026 Tasracing Animal Welfare Office, Ms. Mel McCarthy conducted a stable inspection at the premises of Ms. Ryan at 589 Pateena Road, Longford.
3. During the inspection Ms. McCarthy examined a metal storage cabinet located inside a shed on the property that was identified as the facility used by Ms. Ryan for keeping prescription medication and supplements for her horses.
4. Inside the cabinet Ms. McCarthy located two unlabelled brown glass injection vials, each containing an unidentified liquid. Ms. McCarthy seized the vials for the purpose of analytical testing.
5. On 31st March 2026 the Tasracing Integrity Unit received analysis results from Racing Analytical Services Limited. The vials were found to contain Acepromazine and Xylazine.
6. At an inquiry held on 21st July 2026 Ms. Ryan pleaded guilty to a charge issued pursuant to AR 252 (1). The particulars of the charge were that Ms. Ryan did have on her premises medication that was not labelled or prescribed in accordance with applicable legislation.

7. In providing evidence during the inquiry Ms. Ryan submitted to the panel that the area in the cabinet the vials were located had previously been utilised by her late father and training partner and did not contain anything she currently uses as part of her husbandry practices. She further submitted that she recalled picking up a number of unlabelled vials of Acepromazine and Xylazine on her father's behalf some years ago from a Veterinary Practice that was closing down
8. Stewards fined Ms. Ryan \$400 for the breach of AR 252 (1).

Penalty Discussion

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

- Ms. Ryan's plea of guilty.
- Her disciplinary history particularly no previous breaches of the relevant rule.
- Her verbal submissions and personal circumstances.
- That any penalty should be a deterrent both general and specific.
- Penalty precedents for similar breaches.

Ms. Ryan was advised of her right to appeal the Stewards decisions to the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board within 14 days.