

Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit and Jack Watson

Date of Decision:	30 September 2026
Decision Makers:	Ms Barbara Scott, Mr Gavin Griffin
Respondent:	Mr. Jack Watson
Rules:	AHRR 250(1)(a) – A driver commits an offence if a sample taken from him upon analysis is found to contain a substance banned by Rule 251.
Charge:	Jack Watson, you were at all relevant times a harness driver licensed by Tasracing and a person bound by the Australian Harness Rules of Racing. On 16 August 2026 you underwent drug and alcohol testing at that Hobart harness meeting, through a saliva test. That test returned a non-negative result. A urine sample was subsequently obtained from you. On 28 August 2026, Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL) confirmed the presence of benzoylecgonine and ecgonine methyl ester.
Plea:	To charge AHRR 250(1)(a) - Guilty
Penalties:	Suspension of licence to drive in races, trials and trackwork for 4 months. Stewards ordered this suspension be backdated to 16 August 2026, the date Mr Watson was stood down.

Decision:

1. Mr. Watson was at all relevant times a licenced harness driver.
2. On 16 August 2026 Mr Watson was engaged to drive at the Hobart harness meeting.
3. Mr Watson was selected for random drug and alcohol testing and underwent a saliva test. That test returned a non-negative result. Mr Watson underwent a second saliva test which returned the same non-negative result.
4. Mr Watson then provided a urine sample, which was sent to RASL for testing.
5. As a result of the non-negative saliva result, Mr Watson was stood down from driving under AHRR 183(d).

6. On 28 August 2025 RASL reported the urine sample upon analysis contained cocaine metabolites over the allowable threshold.
7. In arriving at Penalty, the Decision Makers considered all available evidence including:
 - Mr Watson's guilty plea.
 - Mr Watson's prior disciplinary history
 - Mr Watson's verbal submissions and remorse
 - The need to ensure the safety of all drivers and horses in a race
 - Specific and general deterrence
8. Mr Watson was advised of his rights of appeal.

Dated: 3 October 2026.