

Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit and Paul Carlson

Date of Decision:	8 October 2026
Decision Makers:	Ms Barbara Scott, Mr Arnold Hyde, Mr Trevor Styles.
Respondents:	Mr. Paul Carlson
Rule:	AHRR 190(1) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances AHRR 190(2) If a horse is presented for a race otherwise in accordance with sub-rule (1) the trainer of the horse is guilty of an offence. AHRR 190 (4) An offence under sub-rule (1) or sub-rule (3) is committed regardless of the circumstances in which the prohibited substances came to present in or on the horse.
Charge:	Paul Carlson you were at all relevant times a harness trainer licensed by Tasracing and a person bound by the Australian Harness Rules of Racing. On 24 May 2026 you presented OUR WILLOW to race in Race 8, Tasracing Leigh Plunkett Pace at the Launceston harness meeting, when a post-race urine sample taken from OUR WILLOW, upon analysis, was found to contain the prohibited substance arsenic, above the threshold.
Plea:	To charges AHRR 190(1), (2) and (4) - Guilty
Penalties:	Fine of \$1000 OUR WILLOW was disqualified under AHRR 195 from Race 8 at Launceston on 24 May 2026.
Decision:	1. Mr. Carlson was at all relevant times a licenced harness trainer and driver. 2. On 24 May 2026 Mr Carlson presented OUR WILLOW to race in Race 8 at the Launceston harness meeting. 3. Following OUR WILLOW'S win, a urine sample was obtained.

4. On 18 June 2026, Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported the post-race urine sample upon analysis contained arsenic, above the allowable threshold.
5. On 30 June 2026, the Chem Centre confirmed the presence of arsenic, above the allowable threshold in the post-race urine sample.
6. Mr Carlson pleaded guilty to presenting a horse to race not free of the prohibited substance arsenic.
7. Following submissions from Mr Carlson who acted on behalf of part owner W. Dearing, stewards disqualified OUR WILLOW from the relevant race and amended the placings accordingly.
8. In arriving at Penalty, the Decision Makers considered all available evidence including:
 - Mr Carlson's guilty plea
 - his verbal submissions;
 - his personal circumstances;
 - Stewards were satisfied the detection of arsenic in OUR WILLOW'S urine sample was due to her ingestion of timber from treated pine posts.
 - Previous penalties for similar offences
9. Mr Carlson was advised of his rights of appeal.

Dated: 9 October 2026.