

## Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit

and

Peter Jakowenko

<b>Date of Decision</b>	3 June 2026
<b>Decision Makers</b>	T T Styles, A D Hyde, J Lincoln
<b>Rule</b>	<i>Charge 1 - AHRR 238</i> <i>Charge 2 - AHRR 231(1)(e)</i>
<b>Charge 1</b>	A person shall not fail to comply with any order, direction or requirement of HRA, the Controlling Body or the Stewards relating to harness racing or to the harness racing industry.
<b>Charge 2</b>	A person shall not assault anyone employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing or otherwise having a connection with it.
<b>Plea</b>	Guilty
<b>Penalty</b>	Charge 1 - \$250 Fine Charge 2 – 3 Months Disqualification
<b>Summary of Facts</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mr. Jakowenko was at all relevant times a Tasracing Licensed Harness Trainer and Driver and a person bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules.</li><li>2. On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Mr. Paul Ashwood alleged to Stewards that he had been involved in a verbal dispute with Mr. Jakowenko at the Brighton Training Facility which then resulted in Mr. Jakowenko grabbing him around the throat while he was seated in his sulky as he was driving to leave the facility. An investigation into the alleged assault was undertaken by Tasracing Integrity Unit Investigator Mr. Darrin Smart</li><li>3. A Body Worn Camera interview was conducted with Mr. Ashwood who alleged that while he was conducting fast work on the training track he</li></ol>

observed Mr Jakowenko positioned in the middle of the track and alleged that he did not move aside when called to do so. Mr Ashwood stated that this was a breach of the track rules and advised that the incident was witnessed by Licensed Thoroughbred Trainer Mr. Steven Shaw.

Mr. Ashwood further alleged that as he later attempted to leave the Brighton Facility, he drove past the stables of Licensed Harness Trainer Tammy Langley where Mr Jakowenko approached him. Mr Ashwood alleged that a heated verbal exchange occurred during which Mr Jakowenko grabbed him around the throat while he remained seated in his sulky.

4. A Body Worn Camera interview was conducted with Mr Shaw who stated that he observed the earlier incident on the training track. He outlined his understanding of the track rules and alleged that Mr Jakowenko was positioned in the middle of the track at the time Mr Ashwood was conducting fast work. He further alleged that Mr Jakowenko frequently trains in the middle of the track.
5. A telephone interview was conducted with stable representative Mr Philip Ford from the Tammy Langley stables who stated that he was present at the Training Facility at the time but was at the stables preparing a horse when the initial interaction on the track took place and as such was not a witness.

Mr Ford further stated that off the track he observed Mr Ashwood and Mr Jakowenko engaged in a heated verbal discussion several metres away from the stable area to which he attempted to de-escalate by saying to Mr Jakowenko, "Don't worry about it Pete". Mr Ford also stated that his attention then returned to preparing a horse and that he could not clearly recall what occurred next as events happened quickly.

Mr Ford stated that Mr Jakowenko later told him he had moved out of Mr Ashwood's way on the track and was verbally abused as Mr Ashwood passed. He stated he did not witness any physical contact between the two men.

6. A telephone interview was conducted with Mr Jakowenko who stated that he regularly uses the middle of the track while training younger horses and hasn't previously had any issues with other track users. Mr Jakowenko also stated that in relation to the incident on the track he did hear Mr Ashwood approaching and moved further toward the outside of the track.

Mr Jakowenko alleged that Mr Ashwood yelled obscenities at him during the interaction on the track and acknowledged that a further dispute occurred when Mr Ashwood was driving his sulky past the Tammy Langley stables but denied grabbing him around the throat. Mr Jakowenko then stated that he may have made contact to Mr Ashwood using an open hand to the upper chest area.

7. After conducting interviews with all relevant witnesses, Mr Smart obtained CCTV footage from the Brighton Training Facility on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and was able to establish:
  - Footage captured near the 800m shows Mr Jakowenko positioned in the middle of the track as Mr Ashwood passed him on the inside whilst conducting fast work. Still images from this footage confirm Mr Jakowenko's position on the track.

- Mr Steven Shaw independently observed during a Body Worn Camera interview that Mr Jakowenko was positioned in the middle of the track.
8. Rule 27 of the Tasmanian Harness Track Rules states: that on sand tracks, all “fast” work must be conducted on the “inside” of the track, while all “slow” work must be conducted on the “outside”.
  9. CCTV footage outside the stables of Tammy Langley from the Brighton Training Facility on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 shows Mr Jakowenko moving directly towards Mr Ashwood as he is passing on his sulky and captures what appears to be a verbal exchange. Post the verbal exchange, Mr Jakowenko is seen grabbing Mr Ashwood with both hands whilst he is still seated in the sulky.
  10. At an inquiry conducted on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 Mr Peter Jakowenko pleaded guilty to two charges being that:
    - On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 he was in breach of AHRR 238 by not adhering to Rule 27 of the Tasmanian Harness Track Rules by conducting slow work whilst not on the outside of the track.
    - On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Brighton Training Centre, being a licensed person, approached Mr Paul Ashwood who was seated in the sulky of the horse he was driving and engaged in words with him and then placed his hands on Mr Ashwood’s upper chest, neck and back area which constituted an act of assault and as such is a breach of AHRR 231(1)(e).
  11. Pursuant to AHRR 238 Mr Jakowenko was fined \$250 for failing to comply with any order, direction or requirement of HRA, the Controlling Body or the Stewards relating to harness racing or to the harness racing industry in that he was not conducting ‘slow’ work in the middle of the Brighton Training Facility Harness Track as prescribed by Rule 27 of the Tasracing Tasmanian Harness Track Rules.
  12. Pursuant to AHRR 231(1)(e) Mr Jakowenko’s license to train and drive is disqualified for a period of 3 months effective immediately and will expire at midnight 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026.

## Penalty Discussion

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

- Mr. Jakowenko’s guilty plea.
- His disciplinary history.
- The objective seriousness of the offence.
- The need to maintain public confidence in the integrity standards of the industry.
- That any penalty should be a deterrent, both general and specific.

Mr. Jakowenko was advised of his rights to appeal the Stewards decision.

Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

*An appeal against conviction and penalty was lodged by Licensed Harness Racing Participant Mr Peter Jakowenko on 04/06/2026.*