

DECISION

Of

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards

Regarding

Ms Yasmine Belaib

Delivered on: 26 September 2025

Date of hearing: 25 September 2025

Panel: Mr Joshua Adams (Chairperson), Mr Paul Zimmermann and Mr William Wain

Appearances: Ms Yasmine Belaib (self-represented).

Charge : Australian Rule of Racing ("AR") 229(1)(a) states:

(1) A person must not:
(a) engage in any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing;

Particulars of Charge: Ms Yasmine Belaib a licensed Trackwork rider with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, in contravention of Australian Rule of Racing AR229(1)(a) engaged in fraudulent behaviour in connection with racing.

1. Ms Belaib was at all relevant times a licensed Trackwork rider with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.
2. As a requirement of Ms Belaib's Trackwork rider license, she was required to obtain a Health Assessment Results Form completed by a Medical Practitioner.

3. Ms Belaib submitted a fraudulent Health Assessment Results Form for the 2025/2026 season which was not completed by a Medical Practitioner.
4. Ms Belaib's conduct in submitting an altered Health Assessment Results Form was fraudulent and accordingly in breach of AR229(1)(a).

Plea: Guilty

Penalty Submissions:

Stewards were presented with detailed written submissions from Ms Yasmine Belaib.

1. Acknowledges the mistake with the health assessment form, accepts full responsibility, and expresses deep regret.
2. Unblemished disciplinary history & background in racing
3. Lifelong equine career across France, England, and Australia; has always respected the rules and met obligations. This is her first disciplinary issue.
4. Horses are her livelihood and passion. She cares about industry trust and her role within it.
5. Financially reliant on trackwork income to support herself.
6. Working with horses provides purpose and stability. An inability to work would seriously impact her wellbeing.
7. Ongoing sponsorship process requires the ability to work. The loss of work threatens her sponsorship and ability to remain in Australia.
8. Has obtained a proper medical from her GP. Stated that she has learned a serious lesson and will ensure it does not happen again.
9. Unblemished record and commitment to the industry.

Stewards Finding on Penalty:

The Stewards accept the remorse, cooperation, early acceptance of responsibility and previously unblemished record. These mitigating factors have been properly weighed.

Notwithstanding mitigation, the falsification of licensing documentation is a serious integrity breach. The annual medical clearance process exists to ensure that those who ride thoroughbreds at speed, and often in company, are medically fit. Trackwork riders are entrusted with the preparation of horses for trainers and owners and operate within a safety framework that depends on truthful disclosure and authentic medical certification. Dishonesty in this process undermines that framework and public confidence in racing.

The use of a generative artificial-intelligence tool to fabricate the appearance of a legitimate medical clearance is an aggravating feature. It reflects a degree of planning and sophistication directed to deceiving the licensing process, and if undetected, could have exposed other riders, horses and stable staff to elevated risk.

Consistent with established appellate authority, penalties for dishonest conduct must protect public confidence in the industry and deter like conduct. The comparative authorities advanced by the Stewards and considered by the Panel support a period of disqualification for falsification of licensing documentation.

Consistent with well-established authorities, penalties must protect public confidence in the sport:

As stated by McGill DCJ in *Wallace v Queensland Racing* [2007]:

“Public confidence in racing is easily damaged, and must be protected by imposing penalties when conduct is shown to be prejudicial to the image of the sport.”

In *Waterhouse v Racing Appeals Tribunal* [2002] NSWCA 195, the Court emphasised:

“Dishonest conduct in racing is conduct which is blameworthy and capable of undermining confidence in the industry.”

Further, in *Pollett v Racing NSW* (2021) NSWCATAD 152, the Tribunal observed:

“It is sufficient if the conduct has a tendency to diminish public confidence in the integrity of racing, whether or not actual prejudice can be shown.”

In respect of comparative authorities, Stewards are satisfied that the appropriate penalty framework is one of disqualification. This is consistent with penalties imposed in cases involving dishonesty and falsification of medical documents:

- Johnston (2025): 4 months disqualification for falsification of a medical.
- Marshall (2025): 8 months disqualification for falsification of a medical.
- Ross (2021): 8 months disqualification for falsifying a medical certificate.
- Sharrock (2025): 9 months disqualification for repeated falsifications
- McKay (2025): 9 months disqualification for multiple falsifications
- Wright (2023, VRT): 12 months disqualification for forging a doctor’s signature
- Schembri (2025, VRT): 3 years disqualification for repeated falsification and false evidence

Human Rights

In considering this matter, proper consideration is required in respect of human rights, and it is necessary to act compatibly with human rights in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld). The Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Ms Belaib may limit or prevent a person from earning a living from the racing industry and subsequently that the imposition of such a penalty may limit a person's human rights to own property (namely a licence), as well as the human right of privacy and reputation. The Stewards further acknowledge that a limitation upon a person's ability to participate in the racing industry, and earn income from that participation, may only be imposed where it is reasonably necessary to achieve the purpose of taking disciplinary action and there is no less restrictive and reasonably available way to achieve the purposes listed above, than to suspend a licence, disqualify a person from holding a licence, or warn a person off.

In the circumstances of this case, Stewards are satisfied that there is no lesser penalty that could be imposed that enables the purposes of taking disciplinary action against a licensee for a contravention of the rules of racing, which are to:

- Maintain public confidence in the racing of animals in Queensland for which betting is lawful;
 - Ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing or betting under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* or the *Racing Act 2002*; and
 - Safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* or the *Racing Act 2002*.
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Penalty:

Stewards are of the view that a disqualification is warranted in the circumstances. A disqualification for a period of six (6) months reduced to four (4) months in relation to Ms Belaib's disciplinary history and guilty plea, effective from the date of this decision commencing 26 September 2025 concluding 26 January 2026.

Further, stewards draw to the attention of Ms Yasmine Belaib Australian Rule of Racing AR 263 and the prohibitions on persons and their conduct while disqualified.

Against this Stewards decision Ms Belaib is advised of her rights to appeal this decision to the Racing Appeal Panel.