

DECISION

Of

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards

Regarding

Mr Jason Hancock

Delivered on: 31 October 2025

Date of hearing: 31 October 2025

Panel: Mr Ethan Suli (Chair), Mr Shane Larkins, Mr Hayden Gillett

Appearances: Mr Jason Hancock

Charge 1: AR 240(2)

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(2) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

Particulars of Charge:

1. Mr Jason Hancock was at all relevant times, a thoroughbred trainer licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC).
2. Mr Hancock, at all relevant times, was the licensed trainer of the registered thoroughbred IMMORTAL LASS.

3. On 6 September 2025, IMMORTAL LASS was brought to the Bundaberg Race Club for the purpose of competing in Race 2, the INGHAM'S RATINGS BAND 0 - 60 HANDICAP 850 metres.
4. Upon analysis by the Racing Science Centre, Brisbane, a pre-race blood sample collected from IMMORTAL LASS, prior to it competing in Race 2 on 6 September 2025 at the Sportsbet Bundaberg Race Club meeting, was reported to contain the substance Procaine and this finding was confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, Melbourne.
5. Procaine is a prohibited substance under the Australian Rules of Racing:
Schedule 1 – Prohibited Substances Lists & Exemptions/Thresholds, Part 2 – Substances Prohibited on Race Days, certain Trials etc Division 1 – Prohibited List B,
 1. Substances capable at any time of causing either directly or indirectly an action and/or effect within one or more of the following mammalian body systems:
 - (a) the nervous system and or
 - (i) the blood system.
 2. Substances within, but not limited to, the following categories:
 - (i) anaesthetic agents.

Plea: Guilty

Background and Submissions:

Mr Hancock presented IMMORTAL LASS to race at the Bundaberg race meeting on 6 September 2025, and a pre-race blood sample collected from the mare, upon analysis was reported to contain the presence of Procaine as advised by Racing Science Centre, Brisbane and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, Melbourne. Mr Hancock provided a medical certificate advising that on or about the date of 6 September 2025 he was taking a prescribed medication of Lidocaine Spray for tonsillitis, and this may have resulted in the presence of the substance. Research of the product could not define or confirm a nexus of the listed compounds for Lidocaine and Procaine. Mr Hancock was unable to explain the presence of procaine in IMMORTAL LASS'S system on the day in question.

Penalty Submissions:

Mr Hancock submitted that he has been licensed as a trainer for 12-months and is reliant on the racing industry to earn a living. Mr Hancock advised that he currently

has 12 horses listed under his care and employs 2 staff members. Mr Hancock requested that his total time as a licensed person in the industry for 12 years without a breach of the rules of racing. Mr Hancock submitted that his personal circumstances be considered.

Stewards' findings on Penalty:

The Stewards acknowledged Mr Hancock's guilty plea at the first available opportunity, cooperation and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry, the documented treatment records, and his time in the racing industry of approximately 12 years, with no prior breaches and a generally excellent disciplinary record. The Stewards also considered Mr Hancock's personal circumstances, and the impact different penalty types may have against him. Stewards considered the seriousness of prohibited substance rule breaches, and that any penalty imposed must serve as an appropriate deterrent specifically to Mr Hancock, but also to the wider thoroughbred racing industry. The Stewards also considered the need to maintain the integrity of thoroughbred racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants. Further, the need to safeguard the welfare of horses that are involved in racing.

The Stewards considered penalty precedents for similar prohibited substance matters involving the same substance, namely a penalty issued against trainer Tess Wilkes by the Racing New South Wales Appeals Panel where a penalty of \$5000 was imposed and the matter of Robert Hickmott before the Victorian Racing Tribunal in 2024 resulting in a \$5000 fine. It was noted that both precedent cases were dealt with on the basis of prior prohibited substance rule breaches on behalf of each participant.

Human Rights:

Consideration was properly given to Mr Hancock's human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr Hancock may limit his rights to property. The Stewards also considered purpose of the imposition of a monetary penalty upon a person for breaching a rule of racing is 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.
- 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.

Having regard to the other less restrictive penalties, it is considered that a caution or reprimand is not sufficient disciplinary options that enforce compliance and achieve the purposes outlined above. The sanction of a monetary penalty serves as a personal and general deterrent, encouraging all participants to comply with the rules of racing and promote drug free racing.

The Stewards therefore consider that any limitation imposed upon the licensee's right to property caused by the imposition of a monetary penalty outlined in the rules of racing, is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 and the fundamental purpose of the disciplinary system.

Penalty Decision:

Charge 1: Fined \$2000

Horse Disqualification:

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting:

- (1) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.

As managing owner of IMMORTAL LASS, Mr Hancock was given the opportunity to address the stewards panel in relation to invoking the provisions of the rule and after considering that no submissions made, stewards determined that IMMORTAL LASS be disqualified from 5th place from Race 2, the INGHAM'S RATINGS BAND 0 - 60 HANDICAP 850 metres conducted at the Bundaberg Race Club 06 September 2025.

Appeal Rights:

Mr Hancock was advised of his right to appeal the decision of the Stewards to the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.