

JACK DE BELIN

- Rugby League is my life ... it always has been
- It has given me so much... not just financially but in terms of enjoyment and particularly friendships
- So it has been incredibly painful for me to see the impact of my current court proceedings on the game I love
- It has been even more painful to see the impact on my team mates and most of all, my family
- For that reason, I have decided today to stand down from playing with the Dragons to concentrate on clearing my name
- I am innocent of the charges brought against me and I will fight them vigorously
- I had hoped to do that while continuing to play with the Dragons
- But I am not prepared to allow my situation to overshadow the start of the 2019 season
- I am not prepared to be responsible for any damage to the image of the game, I am not prepared to put my team mates under undue pressure and I am not prepared to embarrass our incredible fans
- I stress that I have not done anything wrong and I will prove that in the courts
- I am standing down, not because I don't want to play but because I love Rugby League – and I would never do anything to tarnish its image
- Thank you to those who have supported me so far... and I promise that I will be back wearing the red and white as soon as I can.