

STEWARDS DECISION

OFFICE OF RACING INTEGRITY

and

Natasha Croft

Date of hearing:	20 December 2024
Stewards Panel:	Dominic Tyson (Chairman), Roger Brown
Participants:	S Croft (failed to attend hearing, subsequently via email) N Croft, R Moate, D Withers
Rule:	Greyhound Australia Rule 165 Conduct detrimental to the interests of greyhound racing An offence is committed if a <i>person</i> (including an <i>official</i>): (a) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of <i>greyhound racing</i> ;
Charge:	The specifics of the charge are that you Ms Natasha Croft engaged in conduct which was detrimental to the image of greyhound racing when you kicked Mr Steven Croft in the dining room at the Elwick Racecourse soon after the running of the Billy Grice Memorial, Race 4 on 12 December 2024 after he had assaulted you and was leaving.
Plea:	<i>Not Guilty</i>
Inquiry Decision:	<i>Guilty</i>
Penalty:	<i>Six Months suspension of Attendants Licence with 3 months suspended for 2 years unless there is another offence under the rule.</i>

Summary of Facts (from CCTV footage)

Mr Croft approached Ms Croft after Race 4 on Hobart Thousand night 12 December 2024 in the dining room and bar in the main grandstand and commenced a verbal altercation during which Ms Croft who was seated at a table stood up at which time Mr Croft “head butted” Ms Croft to the area of her forehead. He then turned and walked toward the exit followed by Ms Croft who kicked out at Mr Croft who then proceeded to push her away from him.

Ms N Croft's Submissions on penalty:

- Ms Croft stated she was acting in self-defence.
- Ms Croft had only one previous offence for misconduct on her record.
- Ms Croft is involved in Greyhound racing with her partner and owns two greyhounds and she has an Attendant's licence so she can assist with their training and racing.

Stewards Penalty Considerations

- The need to provide a safe environment and workplace for participants free from violence.
- The need to protect and maintain the image of the Greyhound Racing Industry especially in view of the public scrutiny the industry faces on a day-to-day basis.
- The Stewards are also mindful that there must be a deterrent for Ms Croft to prevent further breaches of the rule and an overall deterrent for the industry as a whole, however they do note the provocation which resulted from the assault on her.
- The stewards do not consider Ms Croft's actions were self-defence as she had pursued Mr Croft who was leaving the area.

Penalty

Suspension of Attendants licence for six (6) months with three (3) months wholly suspended for 2 years unless she re-offends, commencing immediately.

Decision Date: 8 January 2025

Dominic Tyson
Chairman Of Greyhound Stewards