

STEWARDS DECISION

OFFICE OF RACING INTEGRITY

and

Steven 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 <i>greyhound racing</i> 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 Mr Steven Croft engaged in conduct which was detrimental to the image of greyhound racing when you physically assaulted Ms Natasha Croft by head butting her in the dining room at the Elwick Racecourse soon after the running of the Billy Grice Memorial, Race 4 on 12 December 2024 which was run at 8.25 pm.
Plea:	<i>Not Guilty</i>
Inquiry Decision:	<i>Guilty</i>
Penalty:	<i>Five (5) Years Disqualification of Owner-Trainer licence</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.

Mr S Croft's Submissions on penalty

- He is serving a 6 month ban from Elwick Racecourse and fine issued by Tas Police
- He and his family are and have been involved in Greyhound racing for generations.

Stewards Penalty Considerations

- The need to provide a safe environment and workplace for participants free from violence especially toward women.
- 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 Hobart Thousand is the feature race in Tasmania, a Group 1 event that is attended by participants and guests from interstate jurisdictions.
- The Stewards are also mindful that there must be a significant deterrent for Mr Croft to prevent further breaches of the rule and an overall deterrent for the industry as a whole.
- Mr Croft has had one significant historical offence which resulted in disqualification of his licence and one recent 2-month suspension for a misconduct offence.

Penalty

- Disqualification of Owner-Trainer licence for a period of five years commencing immediately.

Decision Date: 8/01/2025

Dominic Tyson
Chairman Of Greyhound Stewards