

DECISION

TASRACING INTEGRITY UNIT

and

Shane Withers

Date of Decision:	29 th July 2025
Decision Makers:	Mr Neil Finnigan (Chair), Mr Gavin Griffin
Respondent:	Mr Shane Withers, Owner Attendant
Rule:	GAR 165 (c) (iv)
Charge:	Mr. Withers did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence by engaging in an activity which is improper, insulting and offensive in relation to a Steward(s)
Plea:	Guilty
Penalty:	6 months suspension, with 1 month conditionally suspended for 24 months.

Decision:

1. Mr. Withers was at all relevant times a licensed Owner Attendant with Tasracing.
2. On Thursday 3rd July 2025 he attended the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club race meeting at Elwick Racecourse.
3. During the race meeting Mr Withers confronted the Chief Stipendiary Steward and another Stipendiary Steward who were attending to a matter in the dining room in the public Grandstand, and engaged in improper, insulting and offensive behaviour towards those Stewards.
4. The incident occurred in the vicinity of children, participants and patrons, and was captured on CCTV.
5. At a hearing on 29th July 2025 Mr Withers was charged under GAR 165 (c) (iv):

165 Conduct detrimental to the interests of *greyhound racing*

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(c) engages in contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to:

(iv) a Steward or any other official of a Controlling Body or a Club;

6. Mr. Withers pleaded guilty to the charge and made verbal submissions.
7. After considering Mr Withers' plea and verbal submissions, the decision-makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against him:
8. A six-month suspension of his license, with one month wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of twenty-four months, subject to Mr Withers not breaching this, or any like, rule in the twenty-four month period. The period of suspension is to commence 29th July 2025 and to expire 29th December 2025.

Should Mr Withers commit a similar breach in the next 24 months, the one month wholly suspended portion of this penalty will be activated and will be served in addition to any other penalty that may be imposed.

Mr Withers was advised of his rights of appeal and received a notice of the effects of a suspension on him as specified in GAR 178.

Penalty Considerations

In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:

- Mr Withers' guilty plea;
- His 40+ year involvement in the greyhound industry, with licensing history since 2011, of which time no prior penalties for similar offences, or any other offence has been recorded;
- His demonstrated lack of remorse;
- That the incident occurred in a public place, in the vicinity of children, participants and patrons;
- That Stewards were subjected to this behaviour in a public setting while performing their official duties;
- Local and national penalty precedents;
- The principles of specific and, primarily, general deterrence, and the importance of sending an unequivocal message to participants that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated; and
- That Tasracing has been making concerted efforts to educate all industry stakeholders on respectful behaviours.

Ends