

Stewards Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit

and

Lane O'Shannessy

Date of Decision	Wednesday 14 October 2026
Decision Makers	T T Styles (Chair), A D Hyde, G Griffin
Rule	AR 233 (b)
Charge	Other misconduct offences A person must not: (b) Engage in workplace harassment or bullying of a person while the person is acting in the course of his or her duties while employed, engaged in, or participating in the racing industry.
Plea	Guilty
Penalty	Disqualification for three (3) months
Summary of Facts	1. Mr. O'Shannessy was at all relevant times a Tasracing Licensed Stable Hand and as such a person bound by the Australian Rules of Racing. 2. On 10th September 2026 the Tasracing Integrity Unit received a complaint from Licensed Trackwork Rider Ms. Liandra Gray alleging she had been verbally abused and threatened by Mr. O'Shannessy at the Spreyton training facility that morning. 3. An investigation into the allegations was undertaken by Tasracing Integrity Unit Manager for Animal Welfare and Investigations, Ms. Kylie Batten. 4. A recorded telephone interview was conducted with Ms. Gray where she confirmed allegations that Mr. O'Shannessy had repeatedly referred to her using profanities and had threatened to kill her and bury her in the river. 5. A subsequent recorded interview was conducted with Mr. O'Shannessy on 11th September 2026. In the interview Mr. O'Shannessy made admissions that he had used profanities towards Ms. Gray during a confrontation at the Spreyton training facility. He further stated that he had made a threat "I'll drag you into the boot of my car by your hair" and actually might have said "I'll kill her".

6. Mr. O'Shannessy acknowledged that the comments were inappropriate and "not the smartest thing to say". He also maintained that there was no genuine intention to act upon the threats and attributed the reason for making the threats to his frustration and anger concerning ongoing workplace issues.
7. At an inquiry held on 14th October 2026 Mr. O'Shannessy pleaded guilty to a charge issued pursuant to AR 233(b). The particulars of the charge being that at Spreyton Training Facility on the 10th September 2026 Mr. Shannessy did engage in workplace harassment by threatening Licensed person Ms. Liandra Gray who was participating in her duties as a Trackwork Rider.
8. Stewards disqualified Mr. O'Shannessy's for a period of three (3) months for the breach of AR 233(b).

Penalty Discussion

In determining penalty the Decision Makers carefully considered all available evidence including but not limited to:

- Mr. O'Shannessy's plea of guilty.
- His disciplinary history.
- The seriousness of the matter and the importance of participants feeling safe in the workplace.
- That any penalty should be a deterrent both general and specific.
- Penalty precedents for similar breaches.

Stewards note that Mr. O'Shannessy has lodged an appeal against the decision with the Tasmanian Racing Appeals Board.