

### STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

**Date of Decision:** 16th November 2021

**Stewards Panel:** D Tyson (Chairman), G Griffin, A Norgrove

**Name:** Lane O'Shannessey

**Track/Race:** **Spreyton Racecourse**

**Date:** 4th September 2021

**Rule no:** **AR 228 Conduct detrimental to the interests of racing**  
A person must not engage in:  
(b) misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour;

**Charge(s):** The particulars of the charge were that as a licenced stablehand with the Office Of racing Integrity, Mr O'Shannessy engaged in improper conduct at track work on the morning of September 4 2021 when he physically assaulted Miss Hannah Van Dongen. .

**Inquiry Decision:** 16/02/2022  
Disqualified for three months from midnight 17/11/2021 until midnight 16/2/2022

**FACTS:** Mr O'Shannessey and Miss Van Dongen attended track work in their duties as licenced Thoroughbred participants. During the course of the morning on September 4 2021 they entered into a verbal disagreement leading up to the point where it was subsequently determined that Mr O'Shannessey struck Miss Van Dongen. Tas Racing track staff then advised the stewards of the incident and forwarded them the footage from the on-course CCTV camera in the horse stall area.

**INQUIRY:** Initial evidence was taken from Miss Van Dongen and Mr O'Shannessey at the Devonport Racing Club's meeting when the CCTV footage became available on 26 September 2021 and the inquiry was then adjourned. The inquiry was then recommenced and concluded on 16 November 2021.

**DECISION:** Mr O'Shannessey was charged for improper conduct under AR 228(b) for the assault on Miss Van Dongen and entered a plea of guilty. His licence was disqualified for a period of three months from midnight 17 November 2021, after consideration of his submissions on penalty. These included his lengthy time licenced in the Thoroughbred industry, his good record and personal circumstances; as well as Mr O'Shannessey's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the inquiry. This was tempered by the fact that violence in the workplace is not to be tolerated under any circumstances, especially considering this was violence toward a female co-worker. Mr O'Shannessey was advised of his rights of appeal.

Subsequently Mr O'Shannessey has elected to appeal this conviction and a stay of proceedings has been granted.