

18<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## **GAIT STEWARDING - LE TROT RACES**

In accordance with the BHRC's delegation of control and organisation of Le Trot races, TROTBritain will implement the following procedures regarding galloping and irregular trotting in these races.

The gait rules are consistent with those in the French Code des Courses and the International Accord on Trotting Races.

### **Rules on Gait**

The rules address the two reasons for gait-based disqualification: galloping and irregular trotting

#### **Galloping**

A horse will be disqualified if it horse breaks into a gallop and is not restrained by the driver in such a way that, when it is clear of other competitors, it loses ground relative to those competitors while galloping, and continues to lose an increasing amount of ground while galloping.

A horse that gallops for a total of 50 yards or 15 strides (in one or more episodes) during the race, OR for more than 10 yards or 3 strides in the last half furlong, will be disqualified, even if it meets the above criteria.

#### **Irregular trotting**

A horse will be disqualified if it fails to maintain a regular trot for a total of 50 yards or 15 strides (in one or more episodes) during the race, OR for more than 10 yards or 3 strides in the last half furlong.

There are three main forms of irregular gait.

Pacing;

Traquenard ('hiking' with the back legs while trotting with the front ones);

Aubin (galloping with the front legs while trotting with the back ones).

Tracquenard/hiking is the most prevalent infringement.

#### **Qualification races**

As in France the same gait rules apply in qualification races as in normal races

### **Implementation**

TROTBritain has appointed Eddie Mather and Jason Podmore as its Gait Stewards for 2017. Jointly or individually they will carry out this task for all Le Trot races at all tracks. If neither will be available Jason Podmore will consult with the promoter in the appointment of a specific track steward as Gait Steward for the particular meeting. This person will be notified to competitors.

The Gait Steward/s will disqualify an infringing horse immediately as the infringement is established and communicate that decision immediately to the course commentator. The commentator will be responsible for immediate announcement of the decision to the drivers and the public, as the race continues, or as soon as possible afterwards if the infringement occurred in the finishing straight. Where available, video recordings may be used by the Gait Steward/s to establish the existence of a gait infringement **in the straight**, but are to be played only at normal speed. He or she is solely responsible for the final decision.

The Gait Steward/s do not have any role to play in relation to other rules.