

Changes to Rule Book

- H1. Racecourse Executive.** The BHRC Stewards hold the Racecourse Executive responsible for the general racing arrangements of the meeting, and to see that the track is properly measured, marked and conforms to current health and safety regulations, with particular attention to double roping (at grass tracks). Security netting should be used in front of spectator areas at grass tracks. The Racecourse Executive must ensure that the track can be enclosed completely in the case of a loose horse and that the Lorry Park and Unloading Area are clearly defined and access is restricted to licensed persons only. At all meetings, other than floodlit meetings, the last race is to be timed to start no later than 20 minutes before sunset. *(Amended 2007) (Amended 2015) (Amended 2017) (Amended 2021)*
- H8. [a] Video Facilities** - The Racecourse Executive shall ensure that video facilities are provided at every meeting, which will be made available for the Judge to determine finishing order of races if photo finish equipment fails or for Track Stewards in the conduct of an enquiry. Any footage and photographs obtained must also be provided upon request to the BHRC for use by the BHRC or for promotional purposes within 48 hours of race day. *(Amended 2017/2018/2021)*
[b] Photo Finish – it is mandatory for the Racecourse Executive to provide dedicate photo finish equipment; this can be in the form of an IPAD app technology at every race meeting. *(Addition 2017)(Amended 2021)*
- H27.** The Judge shall instruct the public announcement of the provisional result (subject to the all-clear) as soon as possible after the race, generally confirming the order of the finish of the first four horses. The Chief Steward must authorise the all-clear once establishing the stewards are satisfied with the result. *(Amended 2021)*
- H28.** The Judge must announce his decision, if necessary, after consulting the photograph and/or video recording of the race, and he shall base his decision exclusively on the position of the horses' noses at the time they pass the winning post. Every horse's finishing position, distances between each of the first three to complete the course and race times for every horse must be recorded. In the case of a close or potentially controversial finish, the Judge can consult with the Chief Steward to determine the result. *(Amended 2021)*
- J3.** Race entry and entry fees to be submitted through the BHRC office, the amount of entry fee shall be stated in the conditions of the race. *(Amended 2021)*
- K7. Balloting for Races** – At a specified time before the publication of the race card, prior to race day the ballot for all races, where applicable in accordance with the current handicap system, will take place. The ballot is to be broadcast live by any media or social media outlet and be conducted by an approved person by the track promoter. The only exception to this rule being the ballot for a final where heats and the final are ran on the same day. *(Amended 2021)*
- K13.** Drivers must be declared by a specified time, mutually agreed by the track promoter and BHRC Office, before the publication of the official Race Card in advance of race day.

No driver may be changed thereafter without permission of the race day stewards.

In the case of driver changes where stewards are not satisfied by the connections' explanation, the stewards can refuse the change, if the change is implemented the trainer will be liable to a fine.

In the case of a driver's intended drive being declared a non-runner, the driver is only permitted to switch to another horse in the same race if said horse is trained by the trainer of the driver's original drive.

In the case of a C Class driver needing to be replaced, he or she must be replaced by a driver holding a licence of the same status.

(Accepted reasons for driver changes - transport difficulties, illness, injury, personal issues, switching from abandoned race meetings). *(Amended 2020)*

M9. Drivers shall only use an approved whip. This being flexible, of standard construction either black or tan, with a fiberglass core covered in linen with a handle and snapper. The whip shall not exceed 48 inches/125 cm in length and the snapper shall not to exceed 7 inches/17cm in length and must made of standard construction NOT knotted. No whip shall be modified in any way and damaged whips must not be used under any circumstances. No other device is to be used.

List of currently approved whip manufacturers: Walsh, Finntack, Yonies, Westfield. This list is non exhaustive and subject to change at any time. No rawhide whips to be used.

For saddle/monte races then any whip used must be one approved for use by the BHA either for national hunt or flat racing. Available from Gibsons Saddlers (Newmarket).

Any whip deemed by the stewards unsatisfactory shall be confiscated by the stewards.

The driver shall only use the whip by means of a flicking motion of the wrist, whilst keeping one rein in each hand keeping a good contact with the horses bit. There should be no shoulder action engaged.

The flicking motion shall be used so that no force is generated from the movement of the elbow or shoulder. The forearm should not be raised more than 45 degrees to the track.

The whip must not be used with excessive, abusive force

The whip may be carried over the shoulder when not in use but when brought forward may not be used for 10 metres.

The following is a list of unapproved uses of the whip, these are not exclusive and may be added to or changed:

Using the whip excessively, continuously without giving the horse time to respond

Using the whip on a horse that is: not responding, is not in contention, cannot maintain or improve its position, is clearly winning, has passed the winning line Lengthening the reins i.e. loose-lining, regardless of whether whip is being used

Using the butt end of the whip in a prodding or jabbing fashion

A driver shall not use a whip which causes injury to a horse.

The whip shall not be used outside the confines of the shafts and wheel discs shall not be hit. No sideways motion to be used.

No person shall offer inducement to, or instruct a driver to use the whip contrary to the above rules

The only evidence relied on shall be from the official video, veterinary evidence and stewards evidence. *(Amended 2021)*

M10. *(Removed 2021)*

M11. *(Removed 2021)*

M17. In case of interference, collision, or violation of any of the above restrictions, whether occurring before or after the start, the Stewards will (except in exceptional circumstances) place the offending horse back one or more positions in that race, and in the event such collision or interference prevents any horse from finishing the race, the offending horse will be placed last and the driver may be fined, and/or suspended or disqualified. In the event a horse is set back, under the provisions hereof, he must be placed behind the horse or horses with whom he interfered. *(Amended 2021)*

M37 In the case of an incident which results in a loose horse or horses, stricken drivers or horses, or any obstructions deemed to put the horses and drivers in danger, at the discretion of the stewards the race is to be stopped by the waving of a red flag or flags (at least 3 red flags to be at the track).

If the Judge has a more advantageous view of an incident, he or she can advise the stewards to stop the race.

The commentator may also be instructed by the officials to stop the race.

One member of the Stewards team to act as coordinator (to issue instruction)
(Addition 2020)

N3. Horses required to Qualify:

[a] Any horse that has not raced under the rules of the BHRC or the IHRA

[b] Any horse that has not qualified in the previous season under the rules of the BHRC or the IHRA

For the avoidance of doubt, all imported horses will be required to qualify prior to being accepted for race entry. Horses who raced or qualified in 2019 but did not race in 2020 (due to Covid 19 restrictions) will not be required to re-qualify in order to race in 2021. *(Amended 2011) (Amended 2019) (Amended 2021)*

N4. Entitlement to Run in Qualifiers

The right to be entered in qualifying trials is restricted to:

[a] Horses that have never raced.

[b] Horses that have not raced under BHRC rules for a year or more and are required to re-qualify, for the only exception see rule N3(b). *(Amended 2021)*

[c] Horses that are required by the Track Stewards to re-qualify.

[d] Horses that are returning to racing after illness or injury and produce a veterinary certificate to that effect.

[e] Horses being driven by a provisional driver as part of the driving test procedure.

[f] When circumstances allow, and it does not adversely affect the opportunities of genuine qualifiers, the track management may, at their discretion, permit the running of other horses.

[g] Any previously qualified horses running in a qualifying trial for any reason whatsoever will be required to trail the gate by 20 yards unless instructed by the Track Stewards to the contrary.

- S21.** All participants must produce the horses passports to the race day secretary when declaring said horse. Failure to do so will result in horse not being allowed to run and set penalty being imposed. *(Amended) (Amended 2021)*
- W46.** All Trainers must notify the BHRC Office in writing of the horses in their custody and control at the commencement of each race season (or in-season within 24 hours of arrival) and the required £10 horse in training fee paid immediately. *(Amended 2021)*
- [a] Notice shall be sent in writing to the BHRC Office within 24 hours that a horse leaves, or arrives in the custody of a trainer. Failure to comply will result in a penalty. *(Amended 2009/2018/2021)*
- [b] Where a trainer obtains custody of a horse from another licensed trainer or premises, it is recommended that the horse is sampled in regard of an integrity test. Any such sample must be obtained prior to the trainer accepting custody of the horse. Costs of sampling and subsequent analysis to be borne by the owner/trainer. *(Addition 2018)*
- W53.** Public Trainers are required to submit a written return in advance every month stating the horses in their care or training for that upcoming period. Returns must be sent to the BHRC Office by the 7th day of each month, after which a fine of £10 per day will be imposed. If the return is not received by the 14th day of the month, the Trainer's licence will also be suspended. *(Amended 2015) (Amended 2021)*
- X4.** All Classic Races will be run under the Rules and conditions laid down and published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*
- X11.** Conditions for Classic Races must specify:
- [a] Which horses are eligible to be nominated.
- [b] The amount added to the purse by the Track.
- [c] The dates and amounts of nomination, sustaining, and starting payments.
- [d] Whether the event will be raced in divisions.
- [e] **Prakas Races** - It is a condition of the Prakas Events that all horses entered are bred by British owners. *(Amended 2021)*
- X13.** Sire Stakes - The closing date for nominations shall be published by the BHRC on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2012) (Amended 2021)*
- X14.** National Pacing Futurity - The date for closing of nominations shall be as published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*
- X15.** National Pacing Derby - The date for closing of nominations shall be as published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*
- X16.** European Pacing Classic - The date for closing of nominations shall be as published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*

- X17. Roosevelt Cup - The date for closing of nominations shall be as published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*
- X18. Prakas - The date for closing of nominations for divisions shall be as published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*

Dates for Sustaining Payments:

- X19. **Sire Stakes** – Dates for sustaining payments for yearlings, 2 and 3 year olds shall be as published by the Sires Stakes Committee on the BHRC website. Yearlings not nominated to the Sires Stakes as foals can be supplemented for the appropriate fee. *(Amended 2021)*
- X20. **All other Classic Races** – Dates for sustaining payments shall be as published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*
- X36. **Post Positions for a Final**
[a] The Post Position of each starter in the Final will be decided by ballot to be drawn at a specified time before the publication of the race card. *(Amended 2021)*

APPENDIX X

- K13 Recommended trainer fine £25 *(Amended 2020)*
- M9 Up till 1st July 2021 only warnings to be issued (to be determined by when the season commences due to Covid19). Only 1 warning will be issued after that the 1st offence penalty starts.

Whip demerit points only refer to breaches of the whip rule these are also referred to as WDP

If found using a non-approved, or modified whip automatic £100 fine, 20 days driving suspension.

1st Offence £50 fine or 10% of 1st prize money (whichever is greater), and 2 whip demerit points

2nd Offence £100 fine or 10% of 1st prize money (whichever is greater), and 2 whip demerit points

3rd Offence £150 fine or 10% of 1st prize money (whichever is greater), and 2 whip demerit points

4th Offence £200 fine or 10% of 1st prize money (whichever is greater), and 2 whip demerit points

5th Offence £250 fine or 10% of 1st prize money (whichever is greater), and 2 whip demerit points

6th Offence £300 fine or 10% of 1st prize money (whichever is greater), and 2 whip demerit points

These offences will be accrued over 365 days from the date of the offence, each offence being removed from the drivers licence on the 366th day after the offence. On accruing 12 whip demerit points the drivers licence will be suspended for 28 days. It will be the drivers responsibility to inform the secretary when each 365 day period is completed.

Suspension to start 8 days from ruling

In cases where it is deemed that the whip has been used with severe / extreme force, for example, the horse has weals or whip marks or blood has been drawn, the horse shall be

examined by the track vet who shall report their findings directly to the stewards who alongside official video evidence will hold a hearing into the incident.

If found guilty of the offence, the penalty will be: £1500 fine AND 20% of the TOTAL prize fund and 28 days driver suspension

This rule would also come under a retrospective stewarding process whereby the footage of the days racing must be made available to an independent BHRC director / steward within 24 hours to be reviewed and any infringements of the whip rule will be reported to the BHRC office within 7 days of the race meeting, where by the licence holder will be contacted by the secretary via text and email with the findings , rule breached, and the penalty, if requested there can be a full hearing at the next available opportunity, for example the next race meeting. After 14 days the details will be published on the BHRC website.

Offences will be viewed on the number of demerit points (WDP) on the driver's licence using the following scale:

2 WDP 1st Offence
4 WDP 2nd Offence
6 WDP 3rd Offence
8 WDP 4th Offence
10 WDP 5th Offence
12 WDP 6th Offence

Any driver accruing 12 WDP who serves a 28 day suspension on returning to driving will have all WDP reduced to zero (0)

W53 £10 per day (from day 8-13), day 14 onwards £10 per day and Public Trainers licence suspended