

Rule Changes agreed 27th April 2021 - 2021 Rule Book Vs 2

D1. Address changed to Delfryn, Llwynpïod, Llangeitho, Tregaron, Ceredigion, SY25 6TA

G8. The handicap rating of a horse will remain unchanged for that event once the race has been framed (this will include horses whose rating subsequently change between race framing and the race taking place)

G9. Removed

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 internal purposes only, within 48 hours of race day. *(Amended 2017/2018/2021)*

H14. The Race Secretary must ensure that the Official List of Entries, as supplied by the BHRC Office, listing the horses entered at the meeting, their registration and microchip numbers and national handicap rating is available in the Declaration Office.

L12. [b] In the case of an Open Preferred Handicap and upon publication of the official start sheet then those positions are deemed to have been drawn and as such cannot be changed. However, where a horse or horses withdraw movement within the line is permitted but not from second line to first or third to second.

M SECTION – amended to include penalty underneath (for ease on race day)

Stewards: Please note the main changes are that the panel recommends that in most cases fines etc do not depend on licence class but on behaviour. Discretion can be used but the main criteria would be based on behaviour. Eg all drivers should follow the rules of racing

M1. [a] Every horse shall be in the paddock no later than the time specified on the Start-sheet or announced over the Public Address by the Track Stewards.

[b] Horses should parade in number order or as otherwise directed by the Paddock Steward.

PENALTIES

M1[a] Trainer fined £30, £50

M1[b] Driver fined £30, £50

(Amended 2021)

M2. On leaving the paddock to compete in a race the driver shall:

[a] drive his horse in its preliminary warm up the correct way of the track only, except when being paraded in front of the stands.

[b] be under the control of the Starter and obey all orders of the Starter or the Assistant Starter

[c] not leave the track without the consent of the Starter or a Steward

[d] *(Removed 2021)*

PENALTIES

[a] Treat as Careless Driving -

- 1st Offence: Fined £50
2nd Offence: Fined £50, 2 weeks suspension
3rd Offence: Fined £50, 4 weeks suspension

- b] Driver fined minimum of £50
[c] Driver fined minimum of £50
[d] *(Amended 2014), (Removed 2021)*

(Amended 2021)

- M3.** [a] It is a recommendation of the BHRC that for safety purposes a field of more than 10 horses should only be allowed to compete on a track measuring 5/8th of a mile or more. *(Addition 2013) any track which can only allow 4 on the gate can have a maximum of 8 in a race.*

[b] Every horse in the race must contest every race and every horse must be driven to the finish. If the Stewards believe that a horse is being driven, or has been driven previously, with design to prevent his winning a race which he was evidently able to win, or is being raced in an intentional inconsistent manner, or to perpetrate or to aid a fraud, they shall consider it a violation and the driver, and anyone in concert with him, to so affect the outcome of the race or races, shall be fined, and/or suspended or disqualified.

PENALTIES

b) Horse disqualified. Driver fined minimum of £250.

Minimum 14 day suspension for driver and horse.

Trainer interviewed as to his/her involvement *(Amended 2016),*

(Amended 2021)

- M4. Driving Rules** - No driver shall commit any of the following acts, which are considered violations of driving rules:

[a] Change course or position, or swerve in or out, or bear in or out during any part of the race in such a manner as to compel a horse to shorten its stride or cause another driver to change course, take his horse back, or pull his horse out of its stride. Remove all driver class distinctions in M4

[b] Impede the progress of another horse or cause it to break from its gait.

[c] Fail to give a minimum of ten feet clearance when pulling in front of another horse or in front of the field.

[d] Crowd another horse by "putting a wheel under him".

[e] Allow another horse to pass needlessly on the inside, or commit any other act that helps any other horse to improve its position.

[f] Carry another horse out.

[g] Take up or slow up abruptly in front of other horses so as to cause confusion or interference among the trailing horses.

[h] Strike or hook wheels with another sulky.

[i] Lay off a normal pace and/or leave a hole when it is well within the horse's capacity to keep the hole closed.

[j] Drive in a careless or reckless manner.

[k] (amended 2020)

[l] Back off from any position and subsequently come on when challenged.

[m] Fail to properly contest an excessively slow pace.

[n] Fail to report an accident or broken equipment.

[o] Drive a horse into a position where insufficient room exists.

[p] Crowd another driver by allowing his horse to touch the driver in front.

PENALTIES

[a] Considered **reckless** driving, Horse disqualified from Race,

1st Offence: Fined £100

2nd Offence: Fined £100, 4 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £200, 2 months suspension

[b] Driver fined £50

[c] Driver fined £50, Horse disqualified if result affected

[d] Considered **reckless** driving, Horse disqualified from race,

1st Offence: Fined £100

2nd Offence: Fined £100, 4 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £200, 2 months suspension

[e] Steward's decision. If deemed intentional, as above

[f] Steward's decision. If deemed **careless**, penalise as below:

1st Offence: Fined £50

2nd Offence: Fined £50, 2 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £50, 4 weeks suspension

[g] Driver fined £50, £100, £150

[h] Driver fined £50, £100, £150

[i] Driver fined £50, £100, £150

[j] Driver fined: **If deemed careless:**

1st Offence: Fined £50

2nd Offence: Fined £50, 2 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £50, 4 weeks suspension

Driver fined: **If deemed reckless:**

1st Offence: Fined £100

2nd Offence: Fined £100, 4 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £200, 2 months suspension

[k] Steward's Decision, depending on weather, Track conditions, Race conditions.

Fine/Suspend. Minimum fine of £100 (*Amended 2014*)

[l] Steward's Decision. If deemed **reckless or careless** treat as above.

[m] Steward's Decision

[n] Owner/Trainer/Driver Fined/Suspended. Steward's Decision.

[o] Fine is at Stewards discretion from £50 - £200

[p] Fine is at Stewards discretion from £50 - £200

(Amended 2021)

M5. [a] Loud shouting or other improper conduct is forbidden in a race.

[b] No Driver may have a mobile telephone or beverage in his possession whilst on the track, nor may a driver smoke whilst on the track.

[c] Unnecessary conversation between and among drivers while on the race-track, up to and including the race, is prohibited. Any violation of this rule may be punished by a fine, and /or suspension or combination thereof.

PENALTIES

[a] Fined £50 - £150

[b] Fined £50 - £100 - and/or suspension

[c] Fined £50 - £100 - and/or suspension

(Amended 2021)

M6. Any Driver who looks round unduly during a race may be fined by the Stewards.

PENALTIES

Stewards discretion, fine £50

(Amended 2021)

M7. *(rule removed 2021)*

M8. [a] Drivers must keep at least one foot in the stirrup whilst on the track *(Amended 2012)*

[b] Drivers must keep both feet in the stirrups at all times whilst under starters orders, warming up and during a race *(Amended 2012)*

[c] A driver shall be allowed to remove a foot from the stirrups temporarily for the purpose of pulling earplugs and blinds *(Amended 2012)*

[d] Any driver kicking a horse in a race will incur an automatic suspension and a fine.

PENALTIES

Fined £30 - £50

[d] Automatic 2 month suspension and fine £200

(Amended 2021)

Use of the whip

For saddle races, delete 'whip' insert 'crop'.

M9. Drivers shall only use an approved whip. This being flexible, of standard construction either black or tan, with a fibreglass 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 manufactures: 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.

PENALTIES

Up until 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 wheals 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).

(Amended 2021)

M10. *(Removed 2021)*

M11. *(Removed 2021)*

M12. No driver or licence holder shall strike, with his whip or otherwise, any other person or horse (other than the horse a driver is driving). Any licence holder who fails to comply and intentionally strikes another horse, licence holder, official or any other person, shall be subject to a mandatory fine of not less than £1,000 and warning off for not less than one year. *(Amended 2011) . (Amended 2020)*

PENALTIES

Fine of no less than £1000 and warning off for not less than one year.

(Amended 2021)

Order of driving priority

M13. The order of priority set out below shall apply in relation to an owner or trainer who has more than one horse engaged in a race and desires to drive in such race. *(Amended 2006)*

[a] Firstly he shall drive the horse he owns and trains

[b] Secondly he shall drive the horse, which he owns but which is trained by some other person

[c] Thirdly he shall drive the horse trained by him but not owned by him

[d] Fourthly if none of the horses so engaged comes within the categories set out in the foregoing priorities he shall drive the horse approved by the Track Stewards

PENALTIES

If not complied with, fine and/or suspension all categories

(Amended 2021)

M14a. Once a driver has been declared they must drive their nominated horse unless the stewards have given prior permission for the change. If a horse enters the track with an undeclared driver they will not be permitted to race. Penalties to follow *(Amended 2020)*

M14b. In any Final [i.e. a race for which the runners qualify by performance in heats] each runner shall be driven by the driver who drove in the qualifying heat except, with the permission of the Track Stewards, in the case of illness or accident. Where the driver has two or more runners in the final he shall be allowed his choice of runner in the final, provided such choice does not contravene rule M13 of these rules.

PENALTIES

If not complied with, fine and/or suspension all categories

(Amended 2021)

M15. Any Driver who commits a breach of any of the sub clauses to this Rule may be fined by the Stewards, who may also suspend or disqualify him for such period as they think fit.

Interference

M16. Any complaint by a driver of any foul driving or other misconduct during the race must be made at the termination of the race, unless the driver is prevented from doing so by an accident or injury. Any driver wishing to make any complaint regarding violation of the Rules,

must before dismounting indicate to the Stewards that he wishes to enter such claim or complaint and, immediately upon dismounting, proceed to the Steward's Office where and when such claim, objection or complaint shall be immediately entered.

- 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)*

PENALTIES

Driver fined or suspended, horse demoted or disqualified

- M18.** When a horse or driver has caused interference:

[a] intentionally or by reckless driving in any part of the race after coming under Starter's Orders, the horse shall, on an objection under Rule T1 be disqualified.

[b] by irresponsible driving in any part of the race after coming under Starter's Orders the horse shall, on an objection under T1 be placed behind the horse or horses with which it has interfered or placed last except that the Track Stewards may order that the placings remain unaltered if:

[i] the Judge has placed the horse behind the horse or horses with which it has interfered;

or

[ii] the Track Stewards are of the opinion that the interference was of a minor nature, and are not satisfied that the interference improved the horse's placing in relation to the horse or horses with which it interfered.

[c] by careless driving in any part of the race after coming under Starter's Orders the horse shall, on an objection under Rule T1, be placed behind the horse or horses with which it has interfered, or placed last if the Track Stewards are satisfied that the interference improved its placing in relation to the horse or horses with which it interfered. If they are not so satisfied they shall overrule the objection and order that the placings shall remain unaltered.

PENALTIES

M18a Reckless or Intentional:

1st Offence: Fined £100

2nd Offence: Fined £100, 4 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £200, 2 months suspension

And Horse disqualified

M18b Careless:

1st Offence: Fined £50

2nd Offence: Fined £50, 2 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £50, 4 weeks suspension

And Horse demoted

M18c Careless

Driver penalised as above [b]

And horse demoted

(Amended 2021)

- M19.** For the purpose of the application of sub-rules M18[a], [b] and [c] the placing of a horse interfered with shall that be decided by the Track Stewards.

PENALTIES

Track Stewards to decide

(Amended 2021)

- M20.** The driver of any horse who, in the opinion of the Track Stewards, or the Stewards of the BHRC, has intentionally caused interference or has been guilty of reckless, irresponsible, careless or improper driving at any time whilst on the racetrack and whether before or after a race shall be guilty of an offence and may be fined or suspended.

- M21.** For the purposes of Rules concerning interference and improper use of the whip the following definitions apply:

1. Intentionally causing interference (e.g. M16-20)

A driver is guilty of intentionally causing interference if he purposely interferes with any other horse or driver.

2. Reckless Driving (e.g. M4 [j])

A driver is guilty of reckless driving if he shows no regard to the consequences of his actions and/or the risk to others, and in particular, the danger of injury to other horses or drivers.

3. Irresponsible driving (e.g. M4 [a])

A driver is guilty of irresponsible driving when interference is caused by some manoeuvre of the driver and where it ought to have been obvious to the driver that interference would be the result.

4. Careless driving (e.g. M4 [i])

A driver is guilty of careless driving if he fails to take reasonable steps to avoid causing interference or causes interference by misjudgement or inattention.

5. Improper driving (e.g. M9-M12)

Improper driving covers cases of improper use of the whip or striking other drivers or horses, but may include other forms of misconduct whilst driving that do not give rise to interference.

- M22.** The penalties for these offences are laid down in Appendix X. If the Stewards decide that a horse has gained advantage, including its race, through the misconduct of the driver, they may demote the horse. Should they not demote the horse, the Stewards must state on the official Report Form their reasons for not so doing. Demotion of the horse shall not influence any punishment imposed on the driver. *(Amended 2005), (Amended 2021)*

Breaking

- M23.** When a horse breaks from its gait, the Driver shall immediately, where clearance exists, take it to the outside and pull it to the gait at which it was declared to go in the race, and if the Driver fails so to do the horse, if it is placed, shall be disqualified from the race and the Driver may be fined, and/or suspended or disqualified for failure to lose ground by the break.

The following shall be considered violations of Rule M23.

[a] Failure to properly attempt to pull the horse to its gait.

[b] Failure to take to the outside where clearance exists.

[c] Failure to lose ground by the break.

PENALTIES

Fine £50 and/or suspension, horse may be disqualified

(Amended 2021)

M24. Merged with M23. *(Amended 2020)*

M25. Any horse making a break, which causes interference to other contending horses, may be placed behind all offended horses. Where there has been no failure on the part of the driver of the breaking horse in complying with sub-sections of Rule M24, no fine or suspension shall be imposed on the driver as a consequence of the interference.

M26. If in the opinion of the Track Stewards, a driver allows his horse to break for the purpose of fraudulently losing a race, he shall be liable to fine and/or suspension.

PENALTIES

Driver fined and suspended according to Steward's decision

(Amended 2021)

M27. If any horse is in a break at the finishing line it shall be placed behind any horse that finishes within one horse and sulky length of it.

M28. In the event a drive is unsatisfactory due to lack of effort or carelessness, and the Stewards believe that there is no fraud, gross carelessness, or a deliberate inconsistent drive they may impose a penalty under this sub-section including, but not limited to, a fine and/or suspension or disqualification.

PENALTIES

Fine and/or suspension

(Amended 2021)

M29. If at a racetrack which does not have a solid inside hub rail, a horse or part of the horse's sulky leaves the course by going inside the hub rail or other demarcation which constitutes the inside limits of the course, the offending horse shall be relegated one or more positions where, in the opinion of the Stewards, the action gave the horse an unfair advantage over other horses in the race, or the action helped the horse improve its position in the race. If the offending horse causes interference to any other horse in the race by such action, or causes another horse to penetrate inner track markers, the offending horse will be disqualified.

PENALTIES

1st Offence: Fined £100

2nd Offence: Fined £100, 4 weeks suspension

3rd Offence: Fined £200, 2 months suspension

(Amended 2021)

M30. If a race has to be stopped, for whatever reason, when it is restarted no horse can be partnered by anyone other than the originally declared driver/rider, except in such

circumstances where the original driver/rider is physically unfit to drive. If that is the case, permission must be obtained from the Track Stewards and a public announcement made to that effect.

M31. If a horse is declared to have fallen during a race, it shall not be permitted to run in any rerun or race at that meeting. Such declaration shall be made if the horse's quarters and/or shoulder touch the ground, or the driver has lost contact and/or control of the horse. *(Amended 2005/2016)*

M32. No horse may race more than twice in any one day, other than reruns. *(Amended 2005)*

Dead Heats

M33. In the event of a dead heat between two or more horses:

[a] all monies or other prizes shall be divided equally between the owners of such horses

[b] the horses shall be handicapped in accordance with the handicap system in force at the time and the first prize money actually received.

M34. In the case of a trophy, the question shall be determined by lot by the Stewards.

M35. In the case of a prize which cannot be divided, the question shall be determined by lot by the Stewards, who shall also decide what sum of money shall be paid to the other owner or owners in respect of such prize.

M36. If any driver or jockey is unseated at any period whilst on the track or during a race that driver or jockey must attend the official trained medical personnel in attendance before driving or riding in any subsequent race on that day. *(Addition 2013)*

Stopping of races

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 and IHRA

[b] Any horse that has not qualified in the previous season under the rules of the BHRC or the IHRA. 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 2021. *(Amended 2011) (Amended 2019) (Amended 2021)*

[c] Horses imported from France who have not raced in the last 12 months and/or have no mobile start gate experience. *(Amended 2021)*

- Q12d.** Imported horses must qualify before racing (with the exception of French imports who have raced in the last 12 months and have mobile start gate experience), unless they have raced or qualified in the previous season. *(Amended 2011) (Amended 2021)*
- S33.** (Penalty section) if found guilty, full suspension of all licenses for a max of 10 years and/or fine of £5000 depending on the severity of the offence
- W2** (b) Removed.
- W16c** All applicants for a driver's licence will be automatically included on relevant Personal Accident Insurance policies at a premium as determined and published by the BHRC. Policy documents available on request from BHRC. *(Addition 2016) (Amended 2021)*
- W63** All applicants for a licence will be automatically included on the relevant Public Liability Insurance policies at a premium as determined and published by the BHRC, to be included within the annual registration fee. Policy documents available upon request from BHRC.
- W23a.** If the candidate is successful in both parts the Provisional Licence Card will be endorsed by the Track and BHRC/Regional Steward and the card forwarded to the BHRC office with colours registration when a C Class licence will be issued.

Rewording of suspension definition

Suspension – means a term during which a persons licensed privileges are withdrawn and during which time that person is prohibited from acting in the capacity from which he is suspended. Suspensions may start from a time/s prescribed by the stewards / panel when they think fit, in order to achieve a suitable punishment for the offence committed and can be carried forward from one season to the next. Below is a list of suspensions which can be used:

- Driver – All privileges removed may not drive in any BHRC race, workout or qualifying meeting.
- Owner – May not have horses running in their name (see section W)
- Trainer – A: May not train any horse, all privileges removed
B: May train, care for and prepare horse/s to race but may not enter any horse to race, qualify or workout at any official BHRC meeting.