

# **POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION CHANGES FOR 2025/26 SEASON**

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEES**

### **Fixtures (p.7 – extract from)**

#### APPLICATION

- 1.1 Unless permission has been obtained from the PPA, amalgamated Hunts will only be allowed to apply for and be granted one fixture in any Point-to-Point Season.

### **The Meeting (p.31 – extract)**

#### INSPECTION PROTOCOL AND POSTPONEMENT/ABANDONMENT OF MEETING

- 5.13 Inspections should be arranged at the best possible time so as the participants and the racing public have an early and clear indication as to the likelihood of racing going ahead.

Any decision over the fitness of a course and the possible postponement/abandonment of racing should be a collaboration between the Organising Committee, the Stewards and, if the decision is being made on the day, the Local Inspector. For the avoidance of doubt the final decision of racing continuing rests with:

1. The Organising Committee up to 2hrs before the first race; and
2. After this time with the Stewards.

### **Health and Safety (p.33 – extract)**

#### LOOSE HORSES

- 6.7 Horse catchers provided by the Organising Committees should be properly briefed as to their raceday function and, if possible, should aim to prevent loose horses from running back towards the oncoming field. Horse catchers should be equipped with a radio or mobile phone. Horse catchers should remain on course throughout racing until officially released after the last race

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## Horses and Riders (p.36 - extracts)

### PASSPORTS

#### 7.1 Procedure for Checking

Every horse that is in attendance at a point-to-point meeting, whether running, working or showing, must be properly vaccinated in accordance with Regulation 36 and have their passport available for inspection if required.

Any Owner/Keeper whose horse is not properly vaccinated or whose horse's passport is unavailable on request may be reported to the Stewards and fined, their horse stopped from running or their horse ordered off the course. All Stewards and Officials are advised to acquaint themselves with the procedures.

- (a) BHA Veterinary Officers team will carry out random checks during the Season.
- (b) The Veterinary Officer will inspect the vaccination and markings sections of the passport of selected horses declared to run. They may, at their discretion, also inspect the passport of any other horse on the course.
- (c) Every owner/keeper who fails to produce a passport, or produces a passport from which the Veterinary Officer cannot identify the horse or contains incorrect or incomplete vaccination details, will be reported to the Stewards by the Veterinary Officer either directly or through the Clerk of the Course/Secretary.
- (d) The Stewards will hold an enquiry and interview the respective owner/keeper and the Veterinary Officer who has checked the passport.
- (e) The Stewards should take the following action:
  - (i) If the Veterinary Officer reports that they cannot identify a horse from its passport the Stewards should establish from the owner/keeper if they have an explanation for the discrepancy, prevent the horse from running, and refer the matter to the BHA.
  - (ii) If an owner/keeper is unable to produce a passport the horse MAY run but the Stewards will fine the owner/keeper £100 (Regulation 38(ii)).

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- (iii) If the Veterinary Officer reports a horse's vaccinations as not complying with Regulation 36, the owner/keeper should be warned about ensuring future compliance. If the horse has received no vaccinations at all or has received any vaccination on the day of the race or in the preceding six days the horse must also be prevented from running.

Note: The Stewards DO NOT need to impose any fines upon owners/keepers relating to incorrect vaccinations because as of the 2025/26 Season all horse entered in a point-to-point will have had their vaccinations checked and cleared in advance. NO HORSE WHOSE VACCINATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN CLEARED BY 4:00PM ON THE PREVIOUS THURSDAY WILL BE ALLOWED TO RUN.

- (f) Fines should, wherever possible, be collected on the day and sent to the PPA.
- (g) On those occasions where it is discovered after a race that there are concerns over a horse's identity the Stewards should hold an enquiry and refer it to the BHA. It is a technical objection and the Stewards do not have the power to alter the result whether it concerns a horse in the placings or an 'also ran'.

### **Horses and Riders (p.38 &39 – extract)**

#### QUALIFICATION OF RIDERS

##### 7.5(c) Riders Medical Record Books

Any rider who has left their Medical Record Book behind shall not be permitted to ride. ~~unless prior permission has been obtained from the BHA Chief Medical Adviser. Such permission must have been requested before 9am on the day of the race, so as proper enquiries can be made before any dispensation is given, and no consideration to such a request will be given after this time.~~

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## **Officials: Clerk of the Course; Clerk of the Scales ... (p.42 – extract)**

### CLERK OF THE COURSE

- 8.1 The Clerk of the Course shall make all the necessary arrangements, as directed by the Organising Committee, to ensure that the Point-to-Point course is fit for racing on the day, as per these Instructions and detailed below.

Unless special dispensation has been granted by the BHA, all Clerks of the Course must attend one training course every two years put on jointly by the BHA and PPA.

## **Veterinary Arrangements (p.71-74 – extract)**

### PROVISION OF SERVICES

#### **9.2 Pre-Raceday**

- (i) Three Veterinary Surgeons (S)PVSs MUST be appointed; **one of whom must be appointed to act as the Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS) and to take charge of all the veterinary arrangements. The SPVS must be appointed and their name passed on to the PPA Office at least eight weeks prior to the Meeting (preferably three months).**

Unless already accredited as an approved Senior Racecourse Veterinary Surgeon (SRVS), any Veterinary Surgeon acting as Senior at a point-to-point must have completed the BHA (Racing to Learn) online Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS) training. Organisers are responsible for checking that the SPVS they appoint has carried out the necessary training and is accredited as either an SRVS or SPVS before submitting their details to the PPA.

Note: Three (S)PVSs **must be in attendance at all meetings**. Whilst it is sensible for the third (S)PVS to be fully trauma trained, this is not mandatory unless required at a specific course in the opinion of the SPVS.

- (vii) **Prior to racing all (S)PVS in attendance should endeavour to attend the Clerk of the Course briefing of the staff working on the racecourse.**

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## **STEWARDS – GUIDE TO PROCEDURES** **AND PENALTIES**

### **Stewarding at a Point-to-Point Meeting (p.115 – extract)**

#### DEPLOYMENT OF STEWARDS

1.1 The following principles should be adhered to whenever possible:

- The Chair of Stewards should arrive early to walk the course with the Clerk of the Course to confirm the state of the going.

Note: The Chair may already have been involved in earlier inspections of the course and discussions with the Organising Committee as to what further action is necessary. In all cases announcements, through social media and associated websites, should be made ahead of an inspection with a follow up announcement with the result. If the course is unfit for racing but the view is that it may be suitable by the day or the start of the Meeting; the announcement should make it clear that a further inspection is required to ascertain if racing can take place. No announcement should indicate racing is to take place unless all those present are satisfied that this is the case. Any decision over the fitness of a course and the possible postponement/abandonment of racing should be a collaboration between the Organising Committee, the Stewards and, if the decision is being made on the day, the Local Inspector. For the avoidance of doubt the final decision of racing continuing rests with:

- i. The Organising Committee up to 2hrs before the first race; and
- ii After this time with the Stewards.

### **Use of the WHip Races (p.130 - **New**)**

#### **HANDS AND HEELS RACES**

A Rider using their whip in breach of the conditions for a Hands and Heels Race does NOT require referral to the BHA but should be dealt with by the Stewards on the course on the day.

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The Stewards should hold an enquiry whenever concerned over a Rider's use of their whip. If, having heard the evidence, there is no acceptable explanation the Stewards should find the Rider in breach of Regulation 171 in respect of their '...failure to comply with the Hands and Heels Race Conditions' and impose the following penalties:

- 1 to 3 uses      £75 fine (minimum)
- 4+ uses          £200 fine (minimum)

### **HANDS AND HEELS RACE CONDITIONS**

In Hands and Heels Races Riders must carry a whip but may only use their whip:

- a. down the shoulder in the backhand position, with both hands on the reins, when approaching an obstacle; and
- b. for clear and unequivocal safety purposes e.g. where a horse continues to hang significantly despite the Rider having visibly attempted to straighten their mount with the reins or to prevent a horse from running out.

If a Rider uses their whip as prohibited above, it will be regarded as failing to comply with an Instruction of the BHA and the Stewards of the Meeting (a breach of Regulation 171) and the entry point penalty is a fine of £75. Any Rider who uses their whip four or more times will be fined a minimum of £200.\*.

\*Riders should also note that the BHA will also be reviewing video recordings of each race and will take retrospective disciplinary action wherever a breach of the Race Conditions is identified.

If a Rider is fined for using their whip in one of these races they will be stripped of any points relating to that race but will be able to continue riding in the series. In the case of a second offence the entry point penalty is a fine of £200, and the Rider will be stripped of all points earned in earlier races and prevented from riding in the remainder of the series.