

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION

CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON

Racecards (p.9)

2.2 The conditions of individual races, which are advertised in the National Point-to-Point & Hunter Chase Race Planner for the benefit of owners to make their entries, must be accurately transcribed into the Racecard. In addition the Racecard is to contain the following:

- i) notices required by Regulation 70
- ii) safety factors
- iii) name of the owners (or if applicable the group ownership name including the name of one of the owners) and the horse
- iv) the colours to be carried by the rider
- v) the age, sex, colour, breeding and where possible the form of the horse
- vi) the weight to be carried
- vii) with the exception of Hunt Races, the name of the Hunt from which the horse's certificate was obtained
- viii) acknowledgement to the Levy Board for the grant provided
- ix) the keeper
- x) details of the horse and or rider sponsor (as applicable – see Appendix L of the Regulations)
- xi) the 'What3Words' location of the emergency helicopter landing point.

Construction of Parade Ring (p.16)

3.8 The parade ring **must be** large enough to accommodate the number of horses equivalent to the maximum safety factor, allowing not less than 16ft per horse.

The parade ring **must be** double railed **with a minimum gap of 1 metre and** child/dog resistant fencing **on the outside rail -** properly fixed orange/blue plastic mesh material can be used for this purpose. If metal crowd barriers **are** being used to define **the outer rail, they** must also be **made child/dog resistant.** Where a winners/unsaddling enclosure is incorporated into the parade ring, sufficient additional space must be provided over and above the 16ft per horse.

Besides Officials, only owners, **keepers,** riders and stable staff with horses participating in the race should be allowed access to the parade ring. A sign confirming that children under the

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION **CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON**

age of 12 (or older if stipulated by Health & Safety requirements and/or the Organising Committees) are prohibited from entering the parade ring must be installed.

Appendix (3)C (p.23)

2. Facilities

Paddock/

Winners Enclosure Size (16ft per horse), double railed **with outside rail being child/dog proof,**
Water provisions [Inst 3.8, 3.11]

Appendix (3)C (p.24)

6. Stop Race Procedure/By passing/Hazard ahead

Stop-Race Flags(min 3)* Positions [Inst 8.1, App (8)K]
*** Stop-Race Reminder** All stop race flags to be raised in event of stop race
Fence Attendants Provision of..., Training, Raceday Communication. [Inst 8.6, App (8)E]
By-Pass Demonstration Where and when to be done on raceday. [Inst 8.1, App (8)K]
Loose horse plan Catching areas, access points/gates closed, etc. [Inst 6.7]

A PRE-RACEDAY CHECKLIST IS AVAILABLE ON

THE GBPOINTING (www.gbpointing.com) WEBSITE

Announcements/Communication (p.28)

5.6 Announcements should be made to convey racing information to the general public and should not, except in exceptional circumstances, be used as a means of contacting or passing on information to raceday Officials.

All key Officials should be provided with a radio communications system and **should be** fully briefed as to how to use them. **The use of different channels to avoid cross communication and aid clarity is also recommended.**

Whilst not definitive, key officials requiring radios would include:

Stewards, Clerk of the Course, Fixture Secretary, Clerk of Scales, Starter, Judge, RMOs, Ambulance Crew, Vets, Incident Controller (IC), Recovery Vehicle Driver and Horse Ambulance Driver.

In addition, the designated person tasked with carrying out the stop-race procedure and fence attendants if, due to the topography of the course, their fence is potentially 'unsighted'. Horse catchers should also be provided with a radio if they do not possess a mobile phone.

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION

CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON

Public Address Systems and Speakers should not be deployed in such a way that the noise is liable to 'spook' or upset horses even at normal broadcasting sound level.

Use Of Video Recordings by Stewards (p.29)

5.9 Video evidence may be considered and used at the Stewards' discretion.

If the Stewards do view footage:

- i. **in advance of the hearing**, they **should** ensure that it is made clear at the start of the enquiry as to what they have viewed and what can be seen. If it is possible, the person(s) subject to the enquiry should also be offered the opportunity to view the footage;
- ii. **after hearing the evidence**, they **should advise the person(s) when giving their decision that they have viewed the footage.**

Serious Incident/Fatality Management (p.33 & 34)

6.8 Organising Committees must consider in advance and have procedures in place for dealing with any serious incident or fatality occurring during a race. Such procedures must, as a minimum, appoint an **Incident Controller (IC)** who will attend every such incident and be responsible for taking charge of controlling the incident in accordance with the Point-to-Point Incident Management procedures at Appendix (6)A.

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

Organising Committees must ensure that they have included in all applicable documentation and made all appropriate personnel (SRMO, SPVS, IC, Clerk of the Course, Fixture Secretary) aware of the 'What3Words' (www.what3words.com) location of the course and, more specifically, the emergency helicopter landing point.

At an appropriate time on the day the following persons should be notified when any serious incident or jockey fatality occurs:

CEO PPA (Paul Miller)	by Fixture Secretary
BHA Inspector/BHA Executive	by Local Inspector
BHA Chief Medical Adviser (~~Jerry Hill~~)	by SRMO

Appendix (6)A (p.35)

POINT-TO-POINT INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

All Organising Committees must appoint an **Incident Controller (IC)** to take charge of serious incidents occurring in a race. The IC is the person responsible on the ground for attending any incident, taking

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION **CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON**

charge of the situation, and thereby allowing the (S) RMO and (S)PVS to focus on their respective casualties.

The Clerk of the Course or, if suitably trained, any other person of the Organising Committee's choosing can be appointed to the position of IC but it must not be one of the (S)RMOs or (S)PVSs working at the meeting on the day. It is always advisable to have more than one person trained to act as IC so as to cover for illness, injury or multiple incidents in one race at different locations.

If the Clerk of the Course takes responsibility on the day to be the IC a second person **MUST** be appointed to be their deputy and capable of stepping up and acting as Clerk of the Course in the event of an incident. The Clerk of the Course/Incident Controller have to be seen as two separate roles in the event of an incident.

Blinkers/Headgear/Red Hoods (p.41)

- 7.11 Owners/keepers are required at declaration to declare if their horse is to wear headgear of any kind – blinkers, eye shield, hood (**incl. red hood**), visor, eyecover or sheepskin cheek pieces – or any combination thereof.

Clerks of Scales, Declaration Clerks and Stewards in particular are asked to take note of the requirements of Regulation 119 and Appendix X.

Red Hoods – where a red hood has been declared the Declaration Clerk should remind the owner/keeper that the hood **MUST** be removed at the start and to ensure that they send somebody down to the start to remove it/collect it.

Clerk of the Course (p.42 & p.45)

- (c) **Briefing.** The Clerk of the Course has the responsibility at the beginning of the day to hold a briefing for all staff working on the racetrack on the use of each of the respective flags, the procedures for marking hazards at fences and directing the field around them (including the blowing of a Fox 40 whistle) and the emergency procedure for stopping a race. A 'Clerk of the Course Briefing Checklist' is at Appendix (8)K.

The briefing **MUST** include a practical demonstration at a fence.

Prior to the briefing, the Clerk of the Course, SRMO, SPVS and Incident Controller (IC) should meet face to face to plan the management of any entrapment or serious incident. Thereafter, at the briefing the SRMO, **if able to attend**, and SPVS should be asked to add their own comments. The Local Inspector should also be in attendance.

- (o) **General.** The Clerk of the Course must ensure that:

- (i) the correct equipment for the marking of hazards and alerting the emergency services is placed at each fence in sufficient time for the Local Inspector and Stewards to view when walking the course prior to racing, and that the black and fluorescent yellow ~~chevron~~ direction markers point towards the correct side of the fence for the field to by-pass in an emergency;

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION **CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON**

Declarations Clerk (p.47)

Duties:

- (b) It is the responsibility of the Declarations Clerk to accept 'Declarations to Run' (Appendix (8)B). In doing so they should note the extras to be carried (e.g. blinkers, visors, tongue straps etc.) and, if a horse is due to run with a tongue strap, that the Owner/Keeper has indicated on the form if their horse is to be withdrawn if the tongue strap cannot be fastened or is shed on the way to the start.

Where a red hood has been declared the Declaration Clerk should remind the owner/keeper that the hood **MUST** be removed at the start and to ensure that they send somebody down to the start to remove it/collect it.

Appendix (8)E (p.61)

EQUIPMENT

FLAGS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. DOCTOR/AMBULANCE | White |
| 2. VET | Orange |
| 3. HAZARD WARNING (to RIDERS) | Black & White Chequered |

FOX 40 WHISTLE

DIRECTION MARKER X **Three (3)** – BLACK BOARD WITH DISTINCTIVE FLUORESCENT YELLOW **ARROW**

DISTINCTIVE VEST/ARMBAND – TO IDENTIFY THE FENCE ATTENDANTS

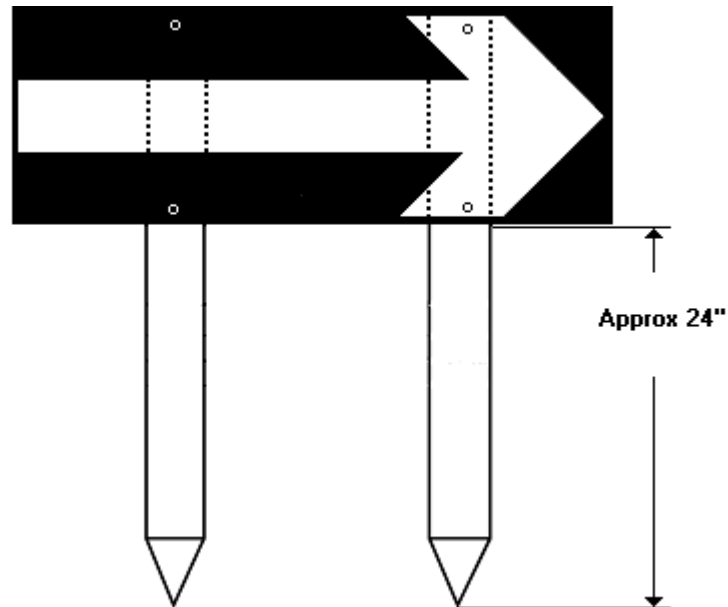
DEALING WITH FALLEN HORSES/RIDERS

1. If the fence is obstructed by a fallen horse or rider or deemed unsafe to jump (e.g. Broken Guard Rail) during the race, **IMMEDIATELY** place the DIRECTION MARKERS in the top of the fence opposite the centre of the hazard. These DIRECTION MARKERS signal to the riders that they must not jump the fence. The yellow **chevrons arrows** on the marker must be pointing towards the side of the fence the field is to pass. Ensure that there are no obstructions, members of the public or vehicles, on the part of the course beside the fence where the horses and riders are to pass.

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION **CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON**

Appendix (8)F (p.63)

DIRECTION MARKERS



DIRECTION MARKER

Three Direction Marker are required at every fence, made of thick board or composite material with any sharp edges rounded off. Each marker must be a minimum 4ft (width) x 1ft (height) with a fluorescent yellow arrow on a black background.

Each marker must have 2 wooden legs/uprights with approximately 24 inches of leg below the bottom of the direction marker, to allow the marker to be fixed in a fence.

Appendix (8)K (p.68 & p.69)

CLERK OF THE COURSE BRIEFING CHECKLIST

Before racing commences the Clerk of the Course must carry out a briefing of everyone working on the racetrack. It should be conducted approximately one hour before racing commences.

The following persons must be present:

- Clerk of the Course
- Incident Controller (IC)
- (S)PVS and wider vet team to include ambulance and recovery drivers
- Course Repair Team

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON

- Fence Attendants
- Local Inspector and BHA Inspector (if present)

If timings allow, the following person should also be present:

- (S)RMO and paramedic team

Provision of Services (p. 71)

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 **six(6)** weeks (preferably three months) prior to the Meeting.

Appendix (9)A (p. 75)

Personal

1. The Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS):
 - a. must hold current ARVS CMS accreditation
 - b. is expected to have racecourse experience or extensive Point-to-Point experience. In addition, it is now a requirement that they hold current SRVS status or have completed SPVS online training within the last 3 years.
 - c. must be appointed at least **six(6)** weeks (preferably three months) in advance of the fixture date

Medical Arrangements (p. 78 & 79)

DUTIES OF THE POINT-TO-POINT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- 10.1 All Medical Arrangements at a Point-to-Point Meeting must be in accordance with Appendix (10)A (to these Instructions). Unless prior permission has been obtained from the BHA Chief Medical Adviser (CMA), no Meeting should commence or continue without the required Medical Arrangements being in place.

APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR RACECOURSE MEDICAL OFFICER

- 10.2 PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SEASON, WITH CONFIRMATION NO LATER THAN **SIX(6) WEEKS** PRIOR TO THE POINT-TO-POINT, THE FIXTURE SECRETARY WILL APPOINT A SENIOR RACECOURSE MEDICAL OFFICER (SRMO) to take charge of the medical arrangements at that Point-to-Point course. The BHA Medical Department should be provided with the name and contact details of the SRMO.

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION **CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON**

On their appointment the SRMO is to be provided with the Medical Briefing Pack that is sent to all Fixture Secretaries by the BHA Medical Department before each Season.

ROLE OF THE SENIOR RACECOURSE MEDICAL OFFICER

10.3 Pre-Raceday

The SRMO in conjunction with the fixture secretary must:

- (i) carry out a risk assessment (with particular reference to the minimum number of doctors, paramedic ambulances and the number of first aid attendants required)
- (ii) prepare Standing Orders (with particular reference to BHAGI 11.1 (under the Rules of Racing), Appendix (10)A (of these Instructions) and the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds – Chapter 18 – 2008)
- (iii) prepare a Major Incident Emergency Plan.
- (iv) submit all documentation via this Link at least **6 weeks*** before the first raceday of the Season

***A charge of £500 may be imposed upon any Meeting not submitting the required medical documentation by the 6-week deadline. No Meeting will be allowed to take place whose documentation has not been approved by the BHA CMA by the date for entries for the Meeting.**

Guide to Procedures and Penalties for Stewards

Enquiry Procedure (p.110/111)

1.4 Enquiry Procedure

Following an objection made under Regulation 140(iv), or otherwise through Regulation 141(iii), the Chair of Stewards must be notified immediately that there is cause to convene a Stewards' enquiry.

Where placings may be affected or there is risk of a disqualification, an announcement must be made over the public address system that the Stewards are holding an enquiry, and the public are advised to retain all betting tickets until the result of the Stewards' enquiry is announced. Furthermore, the Steward present during weighing in must ensure that no announcement of "weighed in" is made over the public address system until authorised to do so by the Stewards.

The Chair must determine their panel of a total of 3 Stewards who will adjudicate in the enquiry. The following should be taken into consideration when drawing together the panel:

- Stewards with evidence central to the enquiry of the incident should not sit on the Stewards' panel. Instead they should be called upon as a witness.

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION

CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON

- If the Steward has a pecuniary or other interest in the race, they should not act on the enquiry.
- It is not advisable that close family members act on the same enquiry.

Alongside the person(s) subject of the enquiry, the following people should be considered to attend the enquiry:

- the Stewards' Assistant (if you have one)
- the Clerk of the Course – if possible, and certainly for any course related enquiries, e.g. Taking the wrong course, interference etc...
- the VS should the offence be related to use of the whip, failing to pull up a tired/exhausted horse etc...
- Witnesses – as and when necessary
- Owner/keeper should a novice rider be involved in the enquiry.

Where the person attending the enquiry is under the age of 18 they **MUST** be accompanied by the owner/keeper or another rider.

The Chair of the Stewards shall call in the person(s) subject of enquiry and at first instance introduce the acting Stewards and explain the presence of any other Steward who maybe in the room but not adjudicating. Any other person called upon as a witness or to consult, should also be introduced.

At the outset, the Chair shall then read out the grounds for the enquiry or objection, and for some enquiries under Regulation 141 (iii) inform the riders where the possible interference took place. Where applicable the appropriate Regulation should be quoted.

- Each witness should be examined.
- An opportunity should then be given to the person against whom any allegations are made to comment further.
- The Stewards may raise such questions as they wish at any time and re-examine following statements from riders / witnesses.
- The person / people who are subject of an enquiry must be given the opportunity to call witnesses.
- At no point during this time should the Stewards make any comment on their own view of the incident.

Notes should be taken of all proceedings, and particularly important if it is evident that the enquiry relates to a potentially serious misdemeanour and/or is likely to result in an appeal to the BHA Disciplinary Panel.

Video evidence **may be considered and used at the Stewards' discretion..** Always bear in mind if choosing to view a recording that using only one camera angle may sometimes be misleading and Stewards should never be placed under pressure to watch a video replay. **If the Stewards do view footage:**

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION

CHANGES FOR 2026/27 SEASON

- **in advance of the hearing**, they should ensure that it is made clear at the start of the enquiry as to what they have viewed and what can be seen. If it is possible, the person(s) subject to the enquiry should also be offered the opportunity to view the footage;
- **after hearing the evidence**, they should advise the person(s) when giving their decision that they have viewed the footage.

Breach of...must be Disqualified... (p.139)

BREACHES OF THE REGULATIONS FOR WHICH HORSES MUST BE DISQUALIFIED BY THE STEWARDS OF THE MEETING.

1. Failure to weigh in (Regulation 130) – unless part (iv) of the Regulation applies
2. Taking the wrong course – **unless**
 - turning back and riding correct course (Regulation 122 and 126)
 - all of the riders have taken the same course and no rider gained an unfair advantage (Appendix AA)
3. Failure to draw correct weight (Regulation 131)
4. Dangerous Riding (Regulation 123)
5. Remounting to continue in the race (Regulation 122(v))