BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB



RULES AND REGULATIONS

(2025) Version 1

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Issued by the Directors of the British Harness Racing Club,
Registered Office: 23 College Street, Lampeter

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THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF
THE BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB (2004)

PART 1 - ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION A - MANDATE

A1. The following rules and regulations, having been duly enacted, are hereby declared to be the official rules and regulations of the British Harness Racing Club which shall apply to and govern the registration of Standardbred horses for racing, and the conduct of Harness Racing. All rules and regulations and/or modification or amendments thereto adopted by the Directors of the British Harness Racing Club shall become effective on being published in the Harness Racing Calendar and/or the official webpage of the British Harness Racing Club following the meeting at which they were adopted. In these rules and regulations, the singular shall include the plural and the plural shall include the singular; the masculine shall include the feminine and the feminine shall include the masculine and any other pronouns. *(Amended 2015/2024)*

A2. Except where they otherwise provide, the Rules apply to all meetings held under the authority of the British Harness Racing Club, and to all races run at such meetings.

A3. The proprietors of every licensed racecourse and every person who is an Owner, Steward, Track Steward, Licensed Official, Trainer, Driver, Assistant, Trainers Assistant, Junior Member, Starter, Judge, Race Secretary, and any person employed in any capacity, having the care or maintenance of horses affected by these Rules, shall be deemed to have read the Rules of Racing of the British Harness Racing Club, and to have agreed to abide by and submit himself to such rules and to the jurisdiction of the Directors of the British Harness Racing Club, and to consent to the publication to such bodies as may be appropriate, or in the press (The Harness Racing Calendar and otherwise), of any matter or decision under such rules. *(Amended 2024)*

A4. The term 'Chairman' in these rules refers to the Chairman of the British Harness Racing Club and/or their delegate duly appointed in writing. The term 'BHRC' when used in the Rules refers to 'The British Harness Racing Club', or any other title, which may be used from time to time.

A5. Meetings of Stewards of the BHRC shall consist of not less than six Stewards or a co-opted member/members of the BHRC who shall constitute a quorum.

A6. The British Harness Racing Club shall have power to repeal, amend, suspend, or add to its rules of racing from time to time. They shall advertise in the Calendar and/or on the official webpage of the BHRC every new rule, in which term is included the repeal or amendment of an existing rule, with the date of its final adoption. Such publication in the Calendar and/or on the official webpage of the BHRC shall be made in the next issue following the date of such final adoption at which time the rule shall become effective. *(Amended 2015)*

A7. Any violation of any Rule or Regulation may be punished by fine or suspension or both.

A8. All standard penalties for violation of these rules, whether monetary or otherwise, are detailed after the respective rule to which the penalty relates.

A9. These rules apply to Great Britain.

SECTION B - DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these Rules the following definitions apply:

Added Money - is money contributed towards the stakes, other than entry fees.

Advertised - means published as an advertisement online, on social media, in the Calendar or a newspaper. *(Amended 2024)*

Age, how reckoned – the age of a horse shall be reckoned from the first day of January of the year of foaling.

Appeals - A request for an Appeal Panel to investigate, consider and review any decisions or rulings of Tracks Stewards or Officials of a race-meeting. The appeal may deal with any matter relating to harness racing including placings, penalties, interpretations of the rules or other questions dealing with conduct of races, or such other matter may be considered relevant or necessary.

Approved timing device – approved electronic timing device.

Arrears - are any sums unpaid in respect of fines, entrance money, stakes, subscriptions, or for any reason by virtue of these rules.

Assistant – A person aged at least 18 licenced to attend a horse. *(Addition 2024)*

Association – an organised body formed to pursue the interests of its members and for the benefit of the BHRC.

Ballot – the determining of post-position by lot.

Banned Substance – is any substance or any isomer or homologue or diagnostic metabolite of any substance listed in the current list of prohibited substances in the uniform classification guidelines or similar which can be found on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2024)*

Breaking – when a horse fails to maintain its designated gait on the pace and canters or gallops.

Breeder – is the person or entity recorded as such by the Stud Book authority of the country of first registration.

Breed Society – for the purpose of these rules refers to The Standardbred and Trotting Horse Association of Great Britain and Ireland [STAGBI].

BHRC - means The British Harness Racing Club.

British bred – for the purpose of these rules means any horse born in England, Scotland or Wales.

Calendar - Means a publication for the time being, which is authorised by the BHRC to be published as the official Calendar of the Club.

Claiming Race - One in which any horse drawn therein may be claimed for a designated amount of money in accordance with the rules.

Classic Race – races forming part of the annual fixtures and designated as Classic Races by the BHRC.

Colours – The distinctive racing garment worn by the driver of a racehorse and registered in that driver's name or that of the Owner, Trainer or racetrack concerned.

Committee – an appointed or elected body, which meets to discuss and decide as required. The Committee of the BHRC consists of representatives of those affiliated bodies that have been granted membership of the BHRC under the constitution of that body.

Conditioned Race – an event to which eligibility is determined according to specified qualifications. Such qualifications may be based upon, among other things:

[a] The horse's money winnings in a specified number of previous races or during a specified previous time.
[b] The horse's finishing position in a specified number of previous races or a specified period of time.
[c] Age.
[d] Sex.
[e] The number of starts a horse has made during a specified period of time.
[f] Any one or more combinations of the qualifications herein listed.

Connections – include the persons who are the Owners or lessees of a horse or who otherwise have a legal interest in it, a trainer, a manager of a syndicate, a stud-master and the authorised agents of such persons.

Corrupt practice – means a fraudulent or dishonest action within the meaning of these rules.

Council – the legal Directors of the Company. *(Amended 2024)*

Day - means twenty-four hours from twelve midnight.

Declarations - A declaration is the naming of a particular horse and driver to a particular race as a starter in that race.

Deputy Regional Steward - An Official appointed by the BHRC Directors, there to assist/deputise for the Regional Steward. This person carries the same obligations, rights and duties as the Regional Steward but does not have a vote on the BHRC Council.

Disqualified Person - A person who has been declared a disqualified person by the directors under these Rules and who, during the term of their disqualification, is prohibited from acting in any capacity and is warned off all licenced areas. *(Amended 2024)*

Driver - means a person licensed under these Rules to hold, and holding, a driver's licence or provisional drivers' licence and also includes a rider in the case of pacing races held under saddle. *(Amended 2024)*

Eligible – means to be selected or qualified to act or race in any defined capacity.

Fallen horse – a horse that falls while on the racetrack so that either its shoulders and/or quarters have been in contact with the ground, or the driver has lost contact and/or control of the horse. *(Amended 2017/2024)*

Fees - All licence fees stipulated including Registration Fee and Calendar Subscription. The BHRC shall have the power to amend such fees from time to time. All amendments will be published in the Calendar and/or the official website/social media and shall become effective from the date of such publication. *(Amended 2024)*

Fines – monies ordered to be paid by a person found guilty of a misdemeanour.

Finish line – a real or imaginary line from the centre of the judges' stand to a point immediately across, and at right angles to the track.

Forfeit List - is a record of arrears published by the British Harness Racing Club in the Calendar or by any recognised Horse Racing Authority.

Fraud – means to obtain personal advantage by deception.

Governing Body – means the organisation, which, by convention, recognition or law is or is deemed to be in control of harness racing (pacing) in any named state or territory. For the purpose of these rules, and with reference to Great Britain, it is the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

Great Britain or [GB] – means England, Scotland and Wales.

Groom – A person over 12 years of age licensed to attend horses.

Handler - shall be a licenced person in charge of the horse. *(Amended 2024)*

Handicap – a race in which performance, sex or distance allowances are made and which may be run either as heats and final or single races. In heats and final, both shall be raced over the same distance unless otherwise stated in the conditions of entry. *(Amended 2017)*

Harness Racing Horses – Within these rules refers to pacing horses only. *(Addition 2024)*

Horse – means a horse bred, cared for, managed, trained, raced or otherwise dealt with for purposes connected with the harness racing industry and includes entire, colt, gelding, mare and filly.

Interference – to impede the progress of another horse, sulky or driver, whether intentionally or accidentally.

Joint Owner - means any person having a legal interest in a horse in conjunction with one or more other person[s] who also has or have a legal interest in the horse.

Judge – the person who determines the result of the race.

Junior Member – A person between the ages of 12 and 18 licenced to attend a horse. *(Addition 2024)*

Licence – an official permit granted by the Governing Body allowing the holder to participate in harness racing under these rules.

Lorry Park & Unloading Area - An area specifically designated for all Horse Boxes and Lorries where horses are to be unloaded. Such area to be clearly defined and entry permitted for licensed persons only. *(Addition 2017)*

Maiden - A horse, that has never won a heat or race for which a purse is offered.

Marshall/Paddock Steward - means the person appointed for each meeting to control the horses when they enter upon the racetrack.

Match Race – means a race between horses, the property of two different Owners, on terms agreed by them and to which no money or other prize is added.

Meeting – may refer to a meeting of the BHRC Directors, Council or Committee, or a Race-meeting, according to context.

Nomination - The naming of a horse, or in the event of a futurity the naming of a foal, to a certain race or series of races, eligibility of which is conditioned on the payment of a fee at the time of naming and the payment of subsequent sustaining fees and/or starting fees.

Objection - An objection charging that a horse is ineligible to race, alleging improper entry or declaration, or citing any act of an Owner, Driver, or official prohibited by the rules, or any infringement of the rules during a race, and which, if true, should disqualify the horse or Driver from the race or require the placing to be changed.

Offence – save as otherwise specified under these Rules, means a breach of the Rules of Racing.

Official – means any steward or official of an affiliated body.

Official Fixture – Any even authorised by and ran under the rules of the BHRC. *(Addition 2024)*

Open Preferred Handicap - Is a race open to any horse. Horses starting position is determined by its current handicap as appearing in the BHRC Handicap System. *(Addition 2011) (Amended 2024)*

Owner - means the registered Owner, Part Owner or Lessee of a registered horse.

Paddock – an enclosed area where horses shall parade prior to going on to the track to race.

Parade – means the presentation before a race of all runners in race-card order together with their Drivers.

Participant - means any person, partnership, limited partnership, estate, corporation, or other legal entity participating directly in standardbred horse racing and who, under the rules, is required to hold a licence issued by the BHRC.

Penalty – [a] a punishment for misconduct or illegal behaviour under these rules; or
[b] a racing handicap imposed as a result of success on the track.

Penalty Free – Period of racing or race when the winning penalty is refunded.

Person – includes an individual, a syndicate, a corporation and a body corporate.

Promoter – a person or Association that is responsible to the BHRC for the organisation of a Race-meeting under these rules.

Qualifying Trial - a trial in which a horse must establish its ability to participate in a race under betting

at a race-meeting consistent with the qualifying standards established for that age/class of horse.

Race - means a race or event in which harness racing horses' race or participate.

Racecourse - means a place at which harness racing horses race or participate in events, and includes all the land and improvements – such as stands, seats, stables, enclosures, rooms, offices, betting and recreational areas, car parks – used in connection with the conduct or observation of races, meetings or events by persons engaged in the harness racing industry or by members of the public.

Racecourse, affiliated - racecourse conducting harness racing under the rules of the BHRC.

Racecourse Executive - is the person or persons or Company incorporated under the Companies Act or other incorporated or unincorporated body, appearing in the records of the BHRC as the proprietor or promoter of a racecourse. *(Amended 2024)*

Racecourse/Track Stewards - Persons appointed by individual racecourses, affiliated to and licensed by the BHRC, who have the responsibility for the conduct of individual meetings in accordance with these Rules and who are licensed as Track Stewards by the BHRC.

Race-day – the 24 hour period commencing twelve midnight during which a race-meeting is held.

Race-meeting – means a meeting at which harness racehorses' race or participate in events or were scheduled to do so.

Racetrack, or 'track' – means that part of the racecourse on which harness racing horses' race.

Regional Steward - An Official appointed by the BHRC to represent that body at any racecourse who is 'ex officio' a member of the Council but not a Director of the Company. One of the principal duties of the Regional Steward is to determine, assist and operate within the integrity testing programme.

Registered Office - means the registered office of the BHRC.

Retrospective Stewarding - All rules will come under a retrospective stewarding process whereby the footage of the day's racing must be made available to an independent BHRC Director/Steward within a timely manner to be reviewed and any infringements of the rules will be reported to the BHRC office within 14 days of the race-meeting, whereby the licence holder will be contacted by the secretary via text and/or email with the finding, 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. *(Amended 2017)*

Secretary - means the person for the time being in office as Secretary of the BHRC or any person for the time being holding or exercising such office.

Sires Stakes Committee - The Sires Stakes Committee is a body which will administer the Sires Stakes fund on behalf of the fund subscribers. *(Amended 2017)*

Sponsor – A person or corporate body who financially supports a race or Race-meeting by the presentation of monetary or other prizes.

STAGBI - Means the Standardbred & Trotting Horse Association of Great Britain & Ireland.

Standardbred – a pacing horse, the progeny of a registered sire and a registered dam, entered in the main body of an approved Studbook.

Starter – the official appointed to organise and supervise the starting of races or a horse that has come under Starter's orders.

Steward – a person entrusted with management of racing.

Sulky - means a conventional dual shaft and dual-hitch racing vehicle having two shafts which must be parallel to, and securely hitched on each side of the horse.

Suspension – means a term during which a person's licensed privileges are withdrawn and during which time that person is prohibited from acting in the capacity from which they are 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 work out at any official BHRC meeting. *(Amended 2021)*

Time of Entry - Means the time for close of entries, which if no other time is published shall be the time that a list of entries is submitted to the BHRC office, for the purpose of attaining clearance of Driver/s, Trainer/s, Owner/s horse/s to race and the issue of a current handicap mark, at a named and dated race-meeting.
Time trial – a trial of one horse against the clock.

Trainer - Means a person licensed under the Rules to hold, and holding, a trainer's licence.

Trainers Assistant - A licensed person aged 18 or over who can take over the duties/responsibilities of a trainer in their absence. *(Amended 2024)*

Training – includes the preparation, education and exercising of a horse to race, but not the mere process of keeping a horse in good health.

Veterinary Surgeon – is any qualified veterinary practitioner appropriately registered and/or licensed to practise.

Warned off – a person who is warned off is a disqualified person.

Walkover - When only one horse is declared to start it constitutes a "walkover". In a Classic Race a "walkover" is entitled to all stakes money and forfeits unless otherwise provided in the published conditions. To claim the purse the entry must start and go once past the winning post.

Winning Horse - Is the horse whose nose, in the judge's opinion, first reaches the winning line, and shall be declared the winner unless disqualified or successfully objected to under these Rules. In the event of a horse's disqualification all other horses in the race are promoted to the relevant position.

Winnings – monies or trophies awarded and received by successful participants.

Wire – the wire is a real or imaginary line from the centre of the judges' stand to a point immediately across, and at right angles to, the track.

Work Out - anytime a horse is presented with a Driver on the track of an official affiliated venue/racecourse where they are not in a betting race. *(Amended 2024)*

SECTION C - AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Registration of clubs and other bodies

C1. The BHRC shall keep a register of all harness racing clubs or organisations granted affiliation.

C2. [a] An organisation desiring to promote or conduct meetings or races may make application to the BHRC for affiliation, such application shall be made in the manner and form and be accompanied by such documentation, information and fees as the BHRC may determine.
[b] The BHRC may grant affiliation upon such terms and conditions as are prescribed by the BHRC constitution.
[c] Affiliation may be refused by the BHRC without assigning any reason.
[d] Affiliation may be cancelled by the BHRC for breach of a rule or a term or condition of registration provided due notice is given and a hearing granted.

C3. [a] Affiliation shall be granted on an annual basis subject to the conditions continuing to be met and application for continuance of affiliation be made to the BHRC by 31st March each year except in exceptional circumstances. *(Amended 2022)*

[b] An unregistered club may make application for registration at any time and its application shall be accompanied by such documentation as the BHRC may from time to time determine.

C4. [a] Persons or bodies who desire to sponsor, organise or conduct races at agricultural shows or similar events may make application to the BHRC for permission to do so but such events must be conducted under the control and guidance of an affiliated organisation.
[b] The application shall be made in the manner and form and be accompanied by such documentation, information and fees as the BHRC may determine.
[c] The BHRC may grant permission for such events upon such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
[d] Permission may be refused by the BHRC if, at its absolute discretion, it considers such an event not in the best interests of harness racing.
[e] At the conclusion of the agricultural show or event, the person or body granted permission under this rule shall forthwith supply to the BHRC such reports, documents and other information as the BHRC may require.

Terms of affiliation:

C5. [a] It is a term and condition of affiliation that an affiliated society or organisation shall keep workers' compensation and public liability insurance current during the term of registration.
[b] It is a term and condition of affiliation that an affiliated society shall supply the BHRC with such reports, documents and information as the BHRC may require including the minutes.

C6. Before permission can be granted for any race-meeting or other event, the track proposed to be used for the conduct of meetings or races must be inspected by the Regional Steward or a person nominated by the BHRC, must be officially measured and the BHRC must approve the use of the track. After inspection of a track, no change of venue is permitted unless authorised by the BHRC. *(Amended 2005)*

Affiliated and new tracks

C7. Affiliated Tracks - No track shall conduct a race-meeting unless such track is affiliated to the BHRC and has entered into a contract for services with the BHRC for the period for which the race-meeting is scheduled and the specific racing dates have been sanctioned by the BHRC.

C8. New Tracks - Affiliation will not be granted to any future hard track that does not conform to, as a minimum, the standard half mile. The minimum width for a new hard track shall be 60 feet. This rule will not apply when the 'new' track is considered to be an improvement or re-location of an existing track.

C9. [a] Each affiliated body organising race-meetings shall, whenever requested to so do, furnish the BHRC with such details relating to the dimensions, features and composition of the club's track as the BHRC may require.
[b] Full details must be furnished by an affiliated organisation to the BHRC whenever the club's track is modified, or race distances are changed or distance or start markers are removed or altered.

C10. All BHRC licence holders must be allowed to race on all affiliated BHRC tracks unless their privileges have been withdrawn by the Governing Body. Failure to abide by this rule may result in the affiliation of such track being revoked.

Harness racing clubs/corporate bodies and associations

C11. [a] The secretary or other office holder of a harness racing association seeking affiliation shall submit the association's constitution, rules, or any amendments thereto, to the BHRC for approval.
[b] The secretary or other office holder of an affiliated harness racing association shall comply with a direction or request of the BHRC.

Information and reports

C12. An affiliated club or an official of such club shall, when directed by the BHRC, furnish it with information or investigate and report upon a matter.

Exclusion from racecourse

C13. A club may exclude from its racecourse, premises or other place under its control a person however if it so does: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] a club shall immediately inform the BHRC of action taken and the reasons for that action.
[b] if the BHRC disallows the action the club shall rescind it.

C14. A club shall act under rule C13 if so, directed by the BHRC.

Offences and related matters

C15. An organisation shall not promote or conduct meetings or races unless it is affiliated under these rules. (Excluding Trot Britian)

C16. A person or body shall not, in the absence of permission or affiliation, promote or conduct races at agricultural shows or similar events.

C17. [a] A person holding a BHRC licence shall not take part in, or be employed or engaged in or about, or be connected with, any meeting, race or event promoted or conducted by any GB harness racing organisation not affiliated under these rules unless given permission by the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] No member of any unaffiliated GB harness racing organisation can, unless given permission by the BHRC: *(Amended 2024)*
[i] be a licence holder of the BHRC
[ii] serve on any committee or sub-committee of the BHRC in any capacity whatsoever
[iii] represent the BHRC in any capacity whatsoever whether at national or international level
[iv] officiate at or promote any meeting held under BHRC rules
(Excluding Trot Britain) *(Amended 2024)*

C18. Any horse owned, trained, raced or driven by any person convicted of an offence under Rule C17 may be disqualified from racing and barred from any affiliated racecourse or track.

C19. Promoters, having been granted racing date(s), must forward a full list of the officials who will operate at their promotion to the BHRC at least seven (7) days prior to the first fixture of that season; any new officials must be notified to the BHRC office prior to the event. All officials must hold an appropriate current BHRC licence to officiate (see E4e). *(Amended 2022)*

SECTION D - ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

D1. The day to day administration of the BHRC shall be in the hands of the office. *(Amended 2021/2024)*

D2. The BHRC Directors shall appoint a Secretary to the BHRC who shall have overall responsibility for the day to day running of the office in accordance with the policies laid down by Council and Committee, and be responsible to the Directors for the same.

D3. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Council, ensuring that proper minutes of the proceedings are kept and distributed and generally perform such duties as are usually performed by secretaries of similar organisations.

D4. The Secretary shall give or cause to be given notices for all meetings of the Council or Committee when directed to do so.

D5. The Secretary shall sign such contracts, documents or instruments in writing as require their signature and shall perform all duties incident to their office that are properly required of them by the Board and shall be custodian of the seal of the Society.

D6. All monies received by the Secretary shall be banked in the Club's account forthwith.

D7. The duties of the Assistant Secretary will be determined by the Secretary at all times. In the absence of the Secretary the duties of the Assistant Secretary will be determined by the directors. *(Amended 2024)*

D8. The BHRC office shall:
[a] issue and keep records of all licences issued to participants in all categories *(Amended 2024)*
[b] *(Removed 2024)*
[c] issue Race Certificates to entitle horses to participate
[d] check vaccination records and ensure all requirements have been complied with before issuing Race Certificates
[e] keep records as to who is the horse's current Owner and trainer
[e] keep records of horses' performance record, earnings and handicap status
[f] supply the Race Framer with all information on horses' performance record, earnings and handicap status for horses entered for any particular Race-meeting
[g] produce the Harness Racing Calendar *(Amended 2017/2024)*
[h] maintain records of Steward's enquiries *(Amended 2015)*
[I] liaise with the selected laboratory regarding medication control
[j] *Withdrawn 2012*
[k] undertake such duties as may be contracted to them by STAGBI
[l] arrange for all agreed disbursements to be paid out
[m] perform such other duties as may be required by the Chairman and/or Council of the BHRC

PART 2 - STEWARDS AND THE STEWARDING OF RACE-MEETINGS

SECTION E - THE STEWARDS OF THE BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

E1. There shall be the following classes of Stewards: *(Amended 2012)*
[a] BHRC Director – An elected Steward of the BHRC who is 'ex officio' a Director of the BHRC.
[b] Regional Steward - An Official appointed by the BHRC to represent that body at any racecourse who is 'ex officio' a member of the Council but not a Director of the Company. One of the principal duties of the Regional Steward is to determine, assist and operate within the integrity testing programme. *(Amended 2011)*
[c] Deputy Regional Steward - An Official appointed by the BHRC Directors, there to assist/deputise for the Regional Steward. This person carries the same obligations, rights and duties as the Regional Steward but does not have a vote on the BHRC Council. *(Addition 2011) (Amended 2013)*
[d] Racecourse/Track Stewards - Persons appointed by individual racecourses, affiliated to and licensed by the BHRC, who have the responsibility for the conduct of individual meetings in accordance with these Rules and who are licensed as Track Stewards by the BHRC. *(Amended 2013)*
[e] Integrity Officer - An Official appointed by the BHRC Council, authorised and empowered to collect samples of hair, urine, excreta and/or sweat. *(Addition 2011)*

E2. BHRC Directors and Regional Stewards may be referred to as The Stewards. Stewards of the Meeting are referred to as such, or as Track Stewards. *(Amended 2025)*

E3. The BHRC Directors and/or Regional Stewards shall have the power to act, advise or instruct on any matter that appears to be an infringement of the rules of the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

Powers of the BHRC Directors

E4. The BHRC Directors shall have power:
[a] at their discretion to grant or refuse to grant, suspend and to withdraw licences to or from the proprietors of a Racecourse, Racecourse officials, Owners, Trainers, Trainers Assistants, Assistants, Junior Members and Drivers without assigning any reason; to allow any person to act or continue to act as an authorised agent or Steward; to make enquiries into and deal with any matter relating to harness racing under these rules; and to disqualify horses. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] To approve the allocation of dates on which all meetings shall be held, to cancel such fixtures, to make any alteration to the date of any such Meeting and to supervise and make such alterations as they may think advisable in the programme of, or the conditions of, any race at any Meeting. *(Amended 2024)*
[c] To authorise the level of fees as they shall from time to time determine, in relation to these Rules. *(Amended 2024)*
[d] to grant or refuse to grant, or to renew or refuse to renew, affiliation in respect of racecourses to the Managing Executives thereof.
[e] To grant or refuse to grant, and to renew or refuse to renew, licences to: Owners, Trainers, Assistant Trainers, Drivers, Grooms and track officials without assigning a reason. Every application for renewal of any licence or permit shall be treated and regarded in all respects and for all purposes as if it were the first application by the applicant for such licence or permit. All licence applications will go to a panel for approval before being processed. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

E4. [f] to enquire into the circumstances of the dismissal or resignation of a licensed official, Trainer, or Driver where there is sufficient reason to think that such dismissal or resignation is due to a refusal to carry out any instructions contrary to the Rules of Racing, and at all such enquiries all officials, including Directors of the racecourse concerned, whom the Directors consider necessary to the enquiry shall be required to attend and give evidence before them should they so direct. *(Amended 2025)*

[g] to make enquiry into and deal with any matter relating to harness racing whether such matters arise in Great Britain or elsewhere.

[h] to consider the decision of a Judge under Rule 8 and where, in their opinion, the Judge has made a mistake in determining and announcing the winner or placed horses in a race, which they have failed to correct within the time limit specified in Rule H28, themselves to correct such mistakes and to declare the winner and placed horses. Such decision of the Directors of the BHRC, provided it is made within fourteen days of the race, shall supersede that of the Judge. *(Amended 2025)*

[i] To correct a decision of the Track Stewards where the Stewards have failed accurately to apply any mandatory provision in these Rules. In such circumstances the person concerned will be informed in writing of the corrected decision. Should the person concerned wish to object to the correction they must apply in writing to the BHRC office for the matter to be referred to the Appeals Panel within 72 hours of their being given notice of the corrected decision which shall stand unless and until the Appeals Panel after having considered the matter decides otherwise. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES

[a] Suspend, Disqualify

E5. The Directors shall have the power:

[a] if good cause is shown or when any person has committed any breach of the Rules of Racing to withdraw or suspend their licence or permit.

[b] to make the re-instatement of such licence or permit at the expiry of any period of suspension subject to the licence holder having complied with, and/or continuing to comply with, such requirements as they think fit.

[c] to provide for any part of the suspension to take effect only if a further suspension is imposed by the Stewards of the BHRC under these Rules in respect of a matter occurring within such subsequent period, not exceeding one year, as they shall think fit. Where part of the suspension is to take effect, it shall follow consecutively the further period of suspension.

PENALTIES

[a] Suspend

E6. The Directors shall have the power:

[a] to, at their absolute discretion, warn off any person from all licenced areas where these Rules are in force without necessarily assigning any reason for so doing, and may at their discretion report such a person to other interested organisations. *(Amended 2024)*

[b] They are hereby authorised to publish any decision or order given or made by them relating to any persons, horse or racecourse in the Calendar and/or in any other manner as, at their absolute discretion, they may think fit.

PENALTIES

[a] Warn off

E7. The BHRC Directors may impose any fine for a breach of the rules as set out in the BHRC Rule Book if there is no stated penalty. *(Amended 2022/2025)*

PENALTIES
Fine

E8. The BHRC Directors and/or Regional Stewards shall have power to require: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] that all stables in which horses racing on licensed racecourses are kept, situated, constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Stewards.
[b] that the Judge, Racecourse Stewards and Timekeeper are situated in such positions during racing and provided with such facilities as will satisfy the Directors of the British Harness Racing Club that they can properly carry out their duties.
[c] that the measurement, conformation, condition and lighting of the course upon which the horses shall race, and additional areas where necessary, shall be in accordance with the requirements of the British Harness Racing Club. *(Amended 2017)*
[d] that all racing equipment and apparatus shall be of good quality designed and manufactured for its purpose and shall be maintained in a satisfactory condition and to prohibit any equipment for use on a horse in a race which, in their opinion, is unsuitable, unsafe or ineffective.
[e] that all horses kept stabled, which are the subject of a British Harness Racing Club licence, whether at a racecourse or the premises of an Owner or Trainer, shall be maintained in good and healthy condition and shall be provided with all facilities and services required to that end. Where the Stewards are not satisfied as to such conditions, they may make such order as they deem fit and may appoint a Veterinary Surgeon to examine and report to them, and may, at their discretion, require that the fees and expenses of any such examination and report shall be borne in whole or in part by the Racecourse Executive concerned, or by the Trainer, or Owner, as the case may be. All licensed persons must have regard of the Horse Animal Welfare Statement published by the British Harness Racing Club. *(Amended 2017)*

E9. The BHRC Directors and/or Regional Stewards may, at their discretion, disqualify any horse, which they decide has been the subject of fraudulent practice and may publish such disqualification. *(Amended 2015/2024)*

PENALTIES
Disqualify

E10. The Directors shall have power to warn off all licensed racecourses, or disqualify for such period as they may think fit, or otherwise deal with any person who acts in any official capacity on any unapproved racecourse, or who enters, owns, drives or trains a horse entered or running at any unapproved racecourse in Great Britain.

PENALTIES
Warn off

Steward's Enquiries

E11. Track Stewards and/or the Regional Stewards and/or the BHRC Directors may decide on the need for an enquiry. *(Amended 2024)*

Following the decision to call an enquiry

E12. At any enquiry of the Track Stewards a BHRC Director present may act in the position of Regional Steward, but in doing so shall not form or voice any opinion as to any decision, this must be left to the Track Stewards under the advice and/or instruction of the BHRC or Regional Stewards. *(Amended 2024)*

E13. The Regional Stewards and/or BHRC Directors shall advise and/or instruct: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] Track Stewards as to the rules of the BHRC.
[b] Track Stewards as to the rights of any person accused of any infringement.
[c] Track Stewards as to the correct procedures to follow during an enquiry in accordance with the Code of Practice as in the current rulebook [Appendix IX].
[d] Track Stewards as to any rule that may have been infringed and the offence committed.
[e] Track Stewards as to the penalty to be imposed under the Standard Penalties [Appendix X or listed underneath the relevant rule].

E14. The Regional Stewards and/or BHRC Directors shall advise: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] Licensed Persons as to the rules of the BHRC.
[b] Licensed Persons as to the rights of any person accused of any infringement.
[c] Licensed Persons as to the correct procedures to follow during an enquiry in accordance with the Code of Practice as in the current rulebook [Appendix IX].
[e] Licensed Persons as to any rule that may have been infringed and the offence committed.
[f] Licensed Persons as to the penalty to be imposed under the Standard Penalties [Appendix X or listed underneath the relevant rule].

E15. Any BHRC Director is empowered to act under the above Rules in the absence of a Regional Steward at any race-meeting and to determine all questions arising in reference to racing under these Rules.

Regional Stewards

E16. A Regional Steward is a person appointed by the BHRC to represent the BHRC at race- meetings where they are responsible for ensuring that the rules of that body are fully and firmly implemented and who shall immediately advise the BHRC of any concerns they may have in this aspect. Although the Regional Steward has responsibility for a specific area, they are empowered to act at any race-meeting held under these Rules. *(Amended 2024)*

E17. The Regional Steward shall ensure that all Track Stewards officiating at any race-meeting they are attending are currently licensed by the BHRC as a Track Steward. In case of emergency the Regional Steward may make such stewarding arrangements as they decide appropriate. They will immediately, on their Regional Steward's report, advise the BHRC of the incident, their handling of it and their advice as to any action to be taken. *(Amended 2024)*

E18. The Regional Stewards shall have the power to act or advise on any matter that appears to be an infringement of the rules of the BHRC. Track Stewards and/or the Regional Stewards may decide upon the need for an enquiry. *(Amended 2007)*

E19. The Regional Steward, when present, shall ensure when track enquiries are being held, prior to, during or after a race-meeting, that the following requirements are complied with:
[a] The Chief Steward shall act as Chairman of the Enquiry and two others, who shall be Track Stewards of the meeting concerned.
[b] The Regional Steward shall sit in attendance to advise both the committee of the enquiry and the respondent or their authorised representative must be present. *(Amended)*
[c] The interviewee shall be asked by the Regional Stewards if they wish to object to any member of enquiry panel, should there be an objection the Regional Steward shall resolve this matter.
[d] The Chairman of the Enquiry shall fully and clearly inform the interviewee of the matter to be discussed including where applicable the rules involved. They shall, if the interviewee so requests, provide him with a copy of the BHRC rulebook.
[e] The Regional Steward shall ensure at all times that the enquiry is held in a proper manner. Any party guilty of improper behaviour will immediately be requested to leave the enquiry, and should they not do so the enquiry shall be suspended. If the person guilty of improper behaviour is the interviewee all their licences shall be immediately suspended. The Regional Steward shall advise the BHRC of the improper behaviour, and of any of the rules of the BHRC they consider to have been broken.
[f] The Regional Steward shall countersign the forms to be sent to the BHRC.

PENALTIES
[e] Suspend

E20. The Regional Stewards shall advise and/or instruct:
[a] Track Stewards and Licensed Persons as to the rules of the BHRC that must be adhered to.
[b] Track Stewards and Licensed Persons as to the rights of any person accused of any infringement.
[c] Track Stewards and Licensed Persons as to the correct procedures to follow during an enquiry in accordance with the IX Practice as in the current rulebook.
[d] Track Stewards and Licensed Persons as to any rule that may have been infringed and the offence committed.
[e] Track Stewards and Licensed Persons as to the penalty range that may be imposed under the Standard Penalties.

E21. The Regional Stewards shall:
[a] Supervise qualifying trials with the Chief Steward of the track.
[b] Perform both random and mandatory identity checks on horses brought to the track by means of inspecting their passports and scanning microchips.
[c] Check the identity of all winning horses by scanning their microchips or depute a Track Steward to so do.
[d] Advise unlicensed Persons on how to apply for BHRC licences if required.
[e] Sign Owners, Trainers and/or Drivers Application forms where they deem the applicant to be suitably qualified.
[f] Supervise practical and oral Driving Tests, or advise Track Stewards on tests, signing forms where applicable.
[g] Perform identity checks on horses presented to race by checking their passports and/or microchip numbers, particularly all horses newly qualifying and all winners.
[h] Forward a report by means of a BHRC report form on each meeting they attend in their official capacity.
[i] Bring to the attention of the Chief and/or BHRC Directors any matter occurring on any track where they may be present which gives them cause for concern.
[j] After any accident the Regional Steward must ensure that horses involved are inspected by the racecourse vet and any persons involved are checked by the medical team on site. All accidents are to be investigated and a record kept in the Stewards' Enquiry Book, it should also be recorded on the Regional/Chief Steward's Report, a copy of which must be sent to the office. *(Amended 2022)*
[k] Complete and submit to the BHRC a completed Regional/Chief Steward's Report form by 10am on the day following the fixture. *(Addition 2022)*

E22. In the absence of a Regional Steward or Deputy Regional Steward at any race-meeting any BHRC Director present shall have the power to act in the Regional Steward's capacity under the above rules. *(Amended 2013)*

E23. All rules will come under a retrospective stewarding process whereby the footage of the day's racing must be made available to an independent BHRC Director/Steward within a timely manner to be reviewed and any infringements of the rules will be reported to the BHRC office within 14 days of the race-meeting, whereby the licence holder will be contacted by the secretary via text and/or email with the finding, 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. *(Amended 2025)*

SECTION F - THE STEWARDS OF THE MEETING
[Racecourse or Track Stewards]

F1. The Executive of each and every racecourse shall appoint a minimum of three licensed Track Stewards whose names shall be approved by the BHRC Directors and who will be issued with licences to act as Track Stewards, to determine all questions arising in reference to racing at the meeting, to supervise all events on the racecourse in connection with the meeting and to maintain the general integrity of the racing. *(Amended 2022)*

F2. The Track Stewards must complete a registration every year and be licensed as such by the BHRC, must have attended Steward's Training Seminars when required and have a proven knowledge of racing and this Rulebook. *(Amended 2022)*

F3. Should there not be three Track Stewards present, a BHRC Director present shall, without delay, see that any vacancy is filled, so that there shall be three persons to act. See H20 *(Amended 2022)*

F4. The Track Stewards shall have full power of all the racing and all racing decisions from 1 hour and 30 minutes before the time of the 1st race/workout/qualifier and, if necessary to vary all such arrangements for the conduct of the racing at the meeting as they think fit under these rules. They have power to abandon the meeting, or to abandon any races, or to postpone any races or to alter the order of running, provided always that the races originally advertised for any day shall be included in that day's programme on the official card, unless prevented by exceptional circumstances. The track stewards shall also have the power to determine if a start car should or should not be used on the track subject to weather and track conditions with emphasis being placed on the safety of both human and equine. *(Amended 2021)*

F5. Should the Track Stewards authorise the abandonment or postponement of any races, or vary in any way a programme as originally advertised, they shall, without delay, report to the Secretary of the British Harness Racing Club their reasons for so doing.

F6. The Track Stewards shall have free access to all the places used for the conduct of racing at a race-meeting.

F7. The Track Stewards shall regulate, control, take cognisance of, and adjudicate upon, the conduct of all officials and of all Owners, Trainers, Trainers Assistants, Assistants, Junior Members and Drivers, Grooms and persons attendant on the horses. *(Amended 2024)*

F8. The Track Stewards shall have power to determine all questions arising in reference to racing at the meeting, subject to appeal under these rules, and should no decision be arrived at by them within three days of an objection being lodged or the question raised, they shall report the case to the Directors of the British Harness Racing Club, who may, at their discretion decide the matter. *(Amended 2024)*

F9. [a] The Track Stewards shall have the power to punish at their discretion and in accordance with the rules, any person subject to their control. All such facts should be reported to the BHRC Directors who may at their discretion themselves hold a further enquiry into the matter and make such order as they think fit. *(Amended 2014)*
[b] No penalty may be imposed upon a licence holder without granting a hearing, unless they waive their right to said hearing by signing the form in the Stewards' Book or in the case of retrospective stewarding. This does not affect the right to appeal. *(Amended 2022/2024/2025)*

[c] Track Stewards and BHRC Directors must give appropriate notice to licence holders of their intention to hold a hearing or enquiry. In the case of Track Stewards on a race day this will be notification to the licence holder by the public address system and/or personal notification. In the case of BHRC Directors where the hearing or enquiry is set down to be resolved at a later date not less than 7 days' notice shall be given in writing by email where possible or by first class, recorded delivery post. Failure to attend a hearing or enquiry has serious consequences, see Section U6. *(Addition 2011) (Amended 2024)*

F10. The Track Stewards have full power to determine all questions arising in reference to racing at the meeting whether such question arises at, or during the currency of, such meeting or within the space of 24 hours before the commencement of, or within the like space after, such meeting.

F11. During the Meeting the Track Stewards shall watch every race from start to finish, and as far as possible watch every horse in that race.

F12. The Track Stewards shall note the running times of horses as compared with previous performances. If they are not satisfied with the running of any horse they shall consult together and, if necessary, call for the advice of the Veterinary Surgeon, and, if they think it to be desirable, they shall report to the British Harness Racing Club that an enquiry is being held. The result of such enquiry and the Stewards' decision and the reasons for arriving at such decision shall be reported to the Secretary of the British Harness Racing Club in writing.

F13. Track Stewards will not publish or make public in any way the findings in any enquiry held by them which, by the existing rules, have to be reported to the British Harness Racing Club Directors, without clearly stating that their findings are subject to confirmation or otherwise by the Directors, and simultaneously informing the Secretary of the British Harness Racing Club of their findings. *(Amended 2024)*

F14. A Track Steward may not adjudge on any objection or similar matter in which they have an interest without declaring such interests at the time.

F15. The Track Stewards have power to call for proof that a horse is neither disqualified in any respect nor the property wholly or in part of a disqualified person and in default of such proof being given to their satisfaction, they may declare the horse disqualified.

F16. At any time, a request can be made that the integrity officer take any examination and/or test by a licensed Veterinary Surgeon [including the taking of samples for analysis] of any horse entered for any event or which has run in any event. Final decision on which horses are tested remains with the integrity officer. If, having regard to any pre-race examination or test of any horse due to run at a meeting, those responsible deem it necessary or advisable to do so, the Stewards shall withdraw such horse from racing at the meeting. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

F17. If an order has been made for a sample for analysis, either urine or swabs, or any other means to be taken from a horse, such a horse shall be kept at the racecourse or such place as the Stewards may appoint until the sample has been obtained. *(Amended 2013)*

PENALTIES
Refer to Y Section

F18. No person has authority to remove the horse concerned until the sample has been obtained, unless permitted to do so by the personnel who ordered the sample be taken. *(Amended 2014)*

PENALTIES
Refer to Y Section

F19. Taking of Samples: (see Y Section and Appendix V)
[a] - [d] *(Removed 2022)*

F20. When in the opinion of the Track Stewards there is a reasonable suspicion that any person has committed any breach of these Rules which in their opinion ought to be considered by the BHRC Directors, or where in their opinion any person has committed any breach of these Rules the BHRC Directors may impose any fine in accordance with set penalties as laid out in the BHRC Rules and Regulations. *(Amended 2022)*

F21. All enquiries held by the Track Stewards must conform to the procedures outlined in Appendix IX.

F22. All decisions of the Track Stewards shall be determined by majority vote.

F23. [a] In the event of an accident, it shall be mandatory to hold an enquiry and include all details on the Regional/Chief Steward's Report which must be sent to the BHRC office.
[b] Any horse involved in an accident, fall, collision, or incident must be examined by a Veterinary Surgeon immediately. *(Amended 2022)*
[c] Any person involved in an accident, fall, collision, or incident must be examined by a first aider/medic immediately. *(Addition 2024)*

F24. The track stewards shall have the power to withdraw any horse from a race/qualifier that has been examined by the veterinary surgeon and deemed unfit to run. *(Addition 2024)*

PART 3 - THE REGULATION OF RACE-MEETINGS

SECTION G - RACE FRAMING AND HANDICAPPING

G1. The Directors of the BHRC shall, in consultation with the Members of the BHRC, from time to time prescribe a system under which handicaps shall be imposed. *(Amended 2024)*

G2. The National Handicap System administered by the BHRC must be used at all affiliated racecourses.

G3. A Handicapping Panel may be appointed by the BHRC to consider and review all aspects of the handicapping system and report back with recommendations to the BHRC Directors. *(Amended 2024)*

G4. No person shall attempt to influence the Handicapping panel in the matter of the handicapping of any horse but an Owner or Trainer may apply in writing to the BHRC office for an explanation of the Handicapping of any horse owned or trained by him.

G5. Racecourse Executives shall appoint such number of persons as they deem necessary to act as Race Framers; such appointments shall be subject to the approval of the BHRC Directors who shall issue licences by the BHRC except:
[a] No Race Framers licence shall be issued to any person connected in any way with the bookmaking industry whatsoever.
[b] No Race Framers licence shall be issued to any person who has a licence suspended by the BHRC, or any other Governing Body, or who is Warned Off.
[c] No Race Framers licence shall be issued to any person who currently holds a Public Trainer licence. *(Amended 2009)*

G6. The duties of the Race Framer shall be to frame the races for any particular race-meeting held under these Rules and to ascertain that the correct marks are allocated for individual horses in accordance with the system of handicapping for the time being in force, having regard in the case of any particular race to the special conditions [if any] approved for that race.

G7. No person shall approach any Race Framer for any other purpose than to ascertain the mark on which any horse owned or trained by him is assessed. Any person committing an offence against this rule may be fined and/or suspended by the BHRC Directors. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Suspension and/or fine at the discretion of the BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

G8. The handicap rating of a horse will remain unchanged for that event once the race has been framed (this will include horses who's rating subsequently change between race framing and the race taking place) *(Amended 2021)*

G9. *(Removed 2021)*

G10. The Racecourse Executive may prescribe or hold "Claiming" races under such conditions as laid down in Appendix VIII.

G11. Once an entry has been made by a Trainer the Race Framer cannot change that entry without written approval from the Trainer. If conditions must be changed (for whatever reason) a refund must be offered if the alternative is not accepted (in writing). *(Addition 2022)*

G12. Any horse deemed not to be competitive within a race will not receive a handicap drop for that race *(Addition 2025)*

SECTION H - THE ORGANISATION OF RACE-MEETINGS

H1. Racecourse Executive. The BHRC Directors 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 or BHRC approved fencing 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 2015/2017/2021/2024)*

H2. Insurance – It is mandatory that all race tracks affiliated to the BHRC must use the insurance provided by the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

H3. Officials Required - The Racecourse Executive of every track shall appoint or authorise the appointment of a minimum of three persons familiar with the rules to act as Track Stewards, one of whom shall be designated as Chief Steward. The Track Stewards shall collectively carry out all of the duties and responsibilities specified in the rules. The Racecourse Executive must ensure that all officials have been approved. All Officials mentioned in these rules must sign in at the Stewards room on arriving at the track on race days. *(Amended 2009)*

H4. The Racecourse Executive shall also appoint a Licensed Starter, Judge, Timekeepers, a competent person to act as Race Secretary, a Paddock Steward and a Veterinary Surgeon who shall be provided with the clean and necessary facilities to enable him to carry out their professional duties. *(Amended 2024)*

H5. Race Programmes - The Racecourse Executive shall arrange for publication of an official race day programme and state therein that such race-meeting is held under the rules of the BHRC.
[a] After the publication of the official race card there shall be no changes to the order of races except in the circumstance of the same horse running too close together. *(Amended 2017/2025)*

H6. All race-cards must:
[a] give the names of the officials acting at such race-meeting.
[b] specify the prize money, added money where possible, distance, basic conditions of every race.
[c] give the registered names of horses, breeding, age, sex and colour.
[d] give the names of the Owner, Trainer and Driver of each horse.
[e] specify the racing colours to be worn by each Driver.
[f] give the results of the horses' last three official races as supplied by the BHRC office which must be published on the race-card, together where possible with some guide to form.
[g] specify the handicap mark of each horse. *(Addition 2013)*
[h] Horses prescribed Omeprazole or Ranitidine must display [OR] on the race card as per Y section (5) Prohibited Substances 5.2b. *(Addition 2024)*
[i] A list current track and national records (for hard tracks only) *(Addition 2025)*

H7. [a] Declaration Office - The Racecourse Executive shall provide suitable accommodation for declarations.
[b] Steward's Accommodation - The Racecourse Executive shall provide suitable accommodation i.e. a caravan, trailer or tent, for the conduct of Steward's Enquiries and

provide sufficient hi vis clothing or other suitable distinctive uniform for the use of the Stewards, who shall wear them at all times whilst on duty. *(Amended 2006/2024)*

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 a timely manner. *(Amended 2017/2018/2021/2024)*

[b] Photo Finish – it is mandatory for the Racecourse Executive to provide dedicated photo finish equipment; this can be in the form of an iPad app technology at every race-meeting. *(Addition 2017) (Amended 2021)*

[c] Drone - The BHRC shall ensure that drone facilities are provided at every meeting at their own expense, unless there are approved unforeseen circumstances, which footage 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 a timely manner. *(Addition 2024)*

H9. First Aid - The Racecourse Executive shall arrange for trained first aid personnel to be in attendance at all times and for an ambulance or other suitable vehicle or accommodation to be available for the care of casualties and must also ensure that no meeting shall commence until their attendance is confirmed.

H10. Exclusion from Licenced Areas - The Racecourse Executive shall, on direction from the Track Stewards, be responsible for: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] excluding or removing from any licenced areas all persons who have been disqualified.*(Amended 2024)*
[b] taking such steps as may be reasonably practicable to prevent undesirable persons from having any connection with or influence on the race-meeting or any licensed persons.
[c] investigating and reporting on any matter, which the Track Stewards may require.

PENALTIES
[a] Exclusion from Licenced Areas *(Amended 2024)*

H11. The Start Sheet published to the BHRC website shall be the official publication and thereafter no changes shall be permitted to horses entered in any race, the only exception being that a reserve horse may be entered into a race providing such horse was shown as a reserve on the published Start Sheet. Any publication of Start Sheets on differing platforms will be considered provisional and may be subject to change.

Immediately on receipt of the Start Sheet from the Race Framer the Race Secretary shall:
[a] forward a copy to the BHRC immediately
[b] *(Removed 2024)*

H12. Following a race-meeting the Race Secretary, or other nominated individual, must forward a copy of the full results from that fixture to the BHRC by 10am the next working day in the manner prescribed at the time. Failure to do so may result in a fine to the Racecourse Executive. *(Amended 2017/2024)*

PENALTIES
[a] £50 Fine *(Addition 2024)*

The Race Secretary

H13. The Race Secretary shall have in their possession, for the information of the Track Stewards and Officials, a list of persons warned off and of disqualified persons and of disqualified horses, also a copy of the forfeit list, and they shall not allow any disqualified person or horse, or horse owned by a person on the forfeit list, to start for, or drive, in any race. *(Amended 2024)*

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. *(Amended 2021)*

H15. The Track Stewards [Stewards of the Meeting] have the power, and it is their duty, to regulate and govern the conduct of all racing and all participants in accordance with the Rule Book. They are empowered to interpret the Rules and decide all questions not specifically covered by the Rules unless such power has been specifically limited by either the Rules or by BHRC Directives. If matters are not covered by these Rules, then the matter should be referred to the Stewards of the BHRC.

H16. The Track Stewards are empowered to impose penalties as specified in the Rules.

H17. The Track Stewards shall be responsible for appointing an official from amongst their number who shall have authority to stop a race once it is in progress for any reason that appears good and proper at the time.

H18. Unless subject to Rule F13. above, the results of Track Stewards' Enquiries are to be announced to the public at the race-meeting. If an appeal is pending, this should be made known at the time. *(Amended 2013)*

H19. In the event of a licensed official being absent or incapacitated, the Racecourse Executive, or Director of the BHRC, may appoint a substitute to act until a licensed official can be procured. The BHRC shall be advised forthwith of such temporary appointments. In the case of an emergency, a Director of the BHRC may exercise any or all of the duties of an official. *(Amended 2024)*

H20. If an unlicensed appointee acts for more than three race-days, they shall apply to be licensed in the capacity involved before officiating further in any capacity.

H21. Occupants of Steward's Room - None but the Track Stewards, the Clerk of the Course, the Secretary, Starter and Timers, Official Commentator and Officers, Officials and Stewards of the BHRC, shall be allowed in the Steward's Room or box during a race, provided such Official does not contravene Rule H42.

H22. The Chief Steward shall:
[a] be responsible for the convening of Stewards Enquiries and ensuring that the procedure, as laid down by the BHRC from time to time shall be followed.
[b] maintain a Steward's Book in which details of all Steward's Enquiries are recorded, with all persons attending in any capacity, contemporaneous notes of evidence given and penalties imposed. A recording device shall be permitted providing all parties are advised of such.
[c] report in writing to the Secretary of the BHRC all violations of the rules, whether by a licence holder or official, giving detailed information.
[d] notify all licensed persons of any penalties imposed upon or against them or their horse/s. *(Amended 2017)*
[e] sign each sheet of the Steward's Book, verifying the correctness of the information contained therein, and be responsible for forwarding such copies to any persons penalised and to the Secretary of the BHRC no later than 48 hours from the close of the race-meeting.
[f] be responsible for the maintenance of the records of the meeting, and the forwarding thereof to the BHRC, except where the Racecourse Executive has provided otherwise, by 10am the next working day. *(Amended 2024)*
[g] be responsible with the Regional Steward either collectively or individually, for completing the requisite form evaluating each drive made by a provisional Driver, and when requested, forward such written evaluation to the BHRC.
[h] supervise Qualifying trials with the BHRC Regional Steward.

H23. No person shall act as Chief Steward unless they hold a BHRC Track Steward's licence for the current year from the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

The Judge

H25. The Judge should be in their box or position for the start of a race. *(Amended 2024)*

H26. The Judge, or their authorised substitute, must occupy the place designated by the Steward's as the Judge's box or position at the time the horses pass the winning post or the race shall be void, unless the Track Stewards are able to determine the result from the photograph or video.

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 their decision, if necessary, after consulting the photograph and/or video recording of the race, and they shall base their 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. The judge must also in these circumstances take a screenshot of the finish and send it to the BHRC to hold on record. *(Amended 2021/2024)*

H29. The Judge's decision shall be final unless an objection to the winner or any placed horses is made and sustained; provided that this rule shall not prevent a Judge from correcting a mistake, such correction being subject to confirmation by the Track Stewards.

H30. The Racecourse Executive shall appoint an Official who shall be responsible for sending a report in the manner prescribed by the BHRC for each race to the BHRC Office at the close of racing on each day, but no later than 10am on the next working day. Failure to comply with this will incur a penalty. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
1st offence - £100
2nd offence - £200
3rd offence - £500

Timekeepers:

H31. The times of all horses shall be correctly recorded and handed to the Racecourse Executive, who shall forward a record of such times to the BHRC Office. *(Amended 2024)*

H32. *(Removed 2024)*

H33. The Racecourse Executive is responsible for providing the Timekeepers with adequate means for timing races.

The Starter

H34. The Starter shall obtain a list of runners for each race from the Race Secretary showing their saddlecloth number and giving their starting position according to the draw or handicap.

H35. [a] All races shall be started from the starting gate or by any other method approved by the Track Stewards.
[b] The horses shall be started from the starting line by the Official Starter or their deputy.
[c] The Starter shall give all the necessary orders and signals for securing a fair start.

H36. Should the Starter consider that through apparent illness or injury a horse is unable to start, they may at their discretion order that horse to be withdrawn, and that horse shall not then be considered as having started or come under Starter's orders. The circumstances of such a withdrawal shall be reported without delay to the Racecourse Executive who shall inform the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

Paddock Steward

H37. Under the direction and supervision of the Track Stewards the Paddock Steward will have complete charge of all paddock activities including:
[a] see that strict punctuality is observed in getting the horses on to the track in accordance with the race schedule given him by the Race Secretary.
[b] inspecting horses for changes in equipment, broken or faulty equipment, head numbers or number cloths.
[c] check horses and Drivers in and out of the paddock.
[d] notify the Chief Steward of any circumstances which could in any way change, delay or otherwise affect the racing programme.

[e] report to the Track Stewards any act of cruelty to any horse that they observe.
[f] see that only properly authorised persons are permitted in the paddock.
[g] see that all Drivers are correctly dressed.

Veterinary Surgeon.

H38. [a] There shall be a qualified Veterinary Surgeon appointed by each Track who shall remain at the track during the whole BHRC official event and may examine any horse at his, or the Stewards', discretion and submit a subsequent report to the Track Stewards. No racing or qualifiers may take place before the arrival of the Veterinary Surgeon. Tracks may be instructed to have the veterinary surgeon on site an hour before the first qualifier/race at the discretion of the integrity team. *(Amended 2022/2024)*
[b] Tracks should have suitable plan in place to remove an injured horse or deceased horse from a track and should have screens to ensure privacy in case of accident or injury. Plans MUST be returned to BHRC office. *(Addition 2022)*

H39. The Veterinary Surgeon is empowered to inspect any horse presented to race or physically present on the track and:
[a] perform an identity check on any horse by checking its passport and/or microchip.
[b] to check the vaccination status of any horse.
[c] to examine any horse at the request of the Track Stewards and advise.
[d] report any case of lameness or sickness or any other condition that gives him cause for concern and advise the Track Stewards accordingly.
[e] to perform integrity tests in accordance with the schedule in Appendix V. *(Amended 2024)*

H40. If, in the opinion of the Veterinary Surgeon, the humane destruction of a horse, or an urgent operation is necessary, they shall attempt to contact the Owner, Trainer or the responsible person. If they are unable to do so, they shall be entitled to proceed with either of these operations without the permission of the Owner if the latter is not present or objects. The Veterinary Surgeon shall seek a second Veterinary opinion [where practicable] or consult with the Track Stewards in this eventuality. *(Amended 2024)*

H41. Veterinary Surgeons whose practice includes horses stabled on a licensed Racetrack shall report immediately to the Racecourse Executive all cases of contagious or infectious diseases occurring within the precincts of the racecourse or training stable and on receipt of such reports, the Racecourse Executive shall immediately notify the Secretary of the BHRC.

Disqualification to Act as an Official

H42. A person under suspension or other disqualification, or who has any interest in, or any bet on a race, or has an interest in any of the horses engaged therein, is disqualified from acting in any official capacity in that race. In the event of such disqualification the management shall be notified by the disqualified person and shall appoint a substitute. Any person who violates this restriction shall be fined, and/or suspended or disqualified.

PENALTIES
Disqualification of an Official. Refer to BHRC

H43. An official may be fined and/or suspended, and the licence may be revoked or denied at any time by the BHRC for incompetence, failure to follow or enforce the rules, or any conduct detrimental to the sport. Such persons shall not be permitted to officiate at any BHRC affiliated meeting. Such licence may be reinstated by the BHRC upon such terms as may be prescribed.

PENALTIES
Disqualification of an Official. Refer to BHRC

H44. Any complaint made against an official shall be made to the Chief Steward or Regional Steward. The investigation shall be conducted by the Track Stewards and they shall report all such complaints to the BHRC Directors, who may take further action as they may deem appropriate under these Rules. *(Amended 2024/2025)*

H45. All licensed officials are prohibited from wagering, directly or indirectly, on the outcome of a race at a track where they are officiating. Any licensed Official found to or proven to have wagered on the outcome of a race shall be immediately suspended.

PENALTIES
Immediately Suspend and Refer to BHRC

SECTION J - ENTRANCE MONEY, PRIZE MONEY, STAKES, DISTRIBUTION

J1. The Owner, Part-Owner or Lessee of the horse at the time of entry is liable for the entrance money and stake.

J2. Every person making a wrong entry is equally liable for the entrance money and stake. *(Amended 2024)*

J3. Race entries to be submitted through the BHRC office. Entry fees may either be submitted through the BHRC office or collected by the promoter as stated in the schedule, the amount of entry fee shall be stated in the conditions of the race. *(Amended 2021/2024)*

J4. The Owner of any horses entered for a race, which is subsequently withdrawn, shall be liable for the full entry fee unless the horse is withdrawn prior to 10 am the next working day following the close of entries. Should payment not be made within thirty [30] days of the date of the race having been run the payment shall become a liability to the Owner, who shall, together with the horse or horses, be suspended until payment is made in full, providing the track notifies the BHRC in writing. *(Amended 2017/2018/2024)*

PENALTIES
After 30 days if not paid, Owner and Horse(s) suspended. Refer to BHRC

J5. If so, required by the Racecourse Executive entrance money, stakes and arrears shall be paid;
[a] in cash to stake holders.
[b] at the time of entry.

J6. The full amount of prize money, advertised by any meeting to be given in prizes, shall be made to the Owners, Lessees or their authorised agents, within fourteen days from the conclusion of the meeting. All cheques issued for prize money must be crossed 'A/C payee only'. Where the horse concerned has been subject of an integrity test the prize money shall be with-held until a negative result is returned. *(Amended 2013/2024)*

J7. [a] Total prize money shall be stated on the race-card. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] The value of prizes not in money shall be advertised.

J8. A minimum of £100 shall be paid as first prize in all races, with the exception of qualifying trials where no prize money may be paid.

J9. Prizes and Stakes in a race belong to the winner and or placed horses, in the proportions as published in the race-card.

J10. Perpetual trophies, cleaned and polished, must be returned to the track concerned, or to the BHRC by 1st June or one month before the race is held the following year, whichever is the earliest. It is the winner's responsibility to do this and failure to do so may result in a fine and a cost for replacement. *(Amended 2007)*

SECTION K - DECLARATIONS AND DRAWING OF POST POSITIONS

K1. Eligibility of Declarations - The Race Secretary shall be responsible for checking eligibility of declarations and it is the responsibility of the BHRC Office to provide up to date information on all horses eligible to race to Race Secretaries.

K2. Declaration Time – The Track shall specify the time for closing of declarations. The time must be published on start sheets.

K3. Declarations by Telephone – Declarations made by telephone are acceptable provided they are made before the time specified for declarations to close.

K4. Failure to Declare on Time – A declaration received after the specified time of closing may not be accepted, except those omitted due to error or negligence by an official or employee of the Track. At the Promoters discretion horses declaring after the specified time may be allowed to compete but must be given the outside draw. All horses must be on the race course 1 hour prior to racing or they will not be allowed to run. *(Amended 2025)*
[a] Any person who repeatedly declares after the specified time will be investigated by the BHRC and/or fined. *(Amended 2025)*

PENALTIES
Fine at the discretion of the BHRC *(Amended 2013/2024)*

K5. The withdrawal of an entered horse must be done by the responsible person to the BHRC secretary by 10am on the next working day following close of entries. Failure to withdraw or declare in the time allowed, will mean a penalty will be applied and a reason must be supplied for the withdrawal. *(Amended 2009/2018/2024)*
Withdrawal of an entered horse published on the official List of Entries does not remove liability under section J4. *(Amended 2017/2018)*

PENALTIES
Payment of all entry fees.

K6. The post position of horses in heats and final of an open handicap will be decided in accordance with the handicap system in force at the time. In the event of two or more horses having the same handicap, the post positions will be decided by ballot.

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 promotor. The only exception to this rule being the ballot for a final where heats and the final are run on the same day. *(Amended 2021)*

K8. Horses Omitted through Error - Such ballots shall be final, except when there is conclusive evidence that a horse was properly declared but omitted due to error. If the horse omitted by error was declared, the race shall be re-drawn by ballot. In such case, if its addition exceeds the maximum number of starters allowed in a single race the race shall be divided. In this event, the starters in each heat and their post-positions will be redrawn by ballot. *(Amended 2024)*

K9. *(Removed 2024)*

K10. Any horse that has qualified for a final may not be withdrawn except on the advice of the track vet, and any such case must be immediately reported to the Track Stewards. A fine and/or suspension will be imposed when this requirement is violated and the horse shall not be allowed to run for 14 days. *(Amended 2025)*

PENALTIES

Horse will not be allowed to run for 14 days

Fine £100 and/or suspension 14 days for trainer

Withdrawing [Scratching] after a horse is declared to Start –

K11. Unless the withdrawal takes place on the advice of the Veterinary Surgeon no horse properly declared and drawn to start shall be withdrawn or scratched from the race without the permission of the Stewards, in which case a report will be submitted to the BHRC. A fine and/or suspension will be imposed when this requirement is violated and the horse shall not be allowed to run for 14 days. *(Amended 2009/2025)*

PENALTIES

Horse will not be allowed to run for 14 days

Fine £100 and/or suspension 14 days for trainer

(Amended 2024)

K12. Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage (EIPH) - Any horse found to have bled during a race, qualifier or warm up shall be automatically suspended from racing for 14 days. *(Amended 2014/2024)*

PENALTIES

Automatic suspension of horse for 14 days

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, where they have claimed an allowance, they must be replaced by a Driver holding a licence of the same status. *(Amended 2024)*

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

PENALTIES
Recommended Trainer fine £25 *(Amended 2020)*

K14. Declaring of Colours - The Driver's colours must be declared at the same time as the horse and Driver, and may not be changed thereafter without permission of the Track Stewards.

PENALTIES
Stewards to decide

K15. Horses may be coupled as an entry where:
[a] one person is the Owner of two or more horses in a race.
[b] the Trainer of one of the horses in a race is the Owner of another horse in that race.

K16. Once a horse that is entered to compete has arrived at a race-meeting, it shall not be permitted to leave the racecourse until it has fulfilled all engagements, except with permission of the Stewards. *(Addition 2014)*

PENALTIES
Automatic £1000 fine. One month suspension of horse. Investigation may be carried out by the integrity team. *(Amended 2024)*

SECTION L - STARTING

With Starting Gate

L1. Starter's Control - Horses shall be deemed to be under the control of the starter at all times when the starter is on the track, and they shall have control of the horses from when the horses are directed from the parade to gate and until they give the word "go". *(Amended 2017)*

L2. There must be a Driver and Starter in charge of the Starting Gate at all times when on the track.

L3. Prior to the race, horses are not permitted to go the wrong way round the track after post parade.

PENALTIES
Treat as Careless Driving
1st offence – Fine £35
2nd offence – Fine £35, 1 week suspension
3rd offence – Fine £35, 2 week suspension

Demerit points – 3 *(Amended 2025)*

L4. Warming Up - Horses should be allowed onto the track to warm up 10 minutes prior to the start of their race. *(Amended 2024)*

L5. Horses shall be deemed to be under starter's orders for a race, once the starter has called them into line when the car is moving. *(Amended 2017)*

L6. Recall Notice - In case of a recall [false start], a light plainly visible to the Driver, shall be flashed and a recall sounded, or such other method as the Track may use, and the gate shall proceed out of the path of the horses.

L7. Breaking Horse - The Starter shall endeavour to get all horses away in position and on gait, but no recall shall be had for a breaking horse, unless it interferes with another horse. If a horse breaks before the start and causes interference it shall be placed in a position out of harms way. *(Amended 2024)*

L8. Reasons for Recall - The Starter may sound a recall only for the following reasons:
[a] A horse gets ahead of the gate.
[b] There is interference.
[c] A horse has broken equipment,
[d] There is a malfunction of the starting gate.
[e] A horse falls before the start car passes the starting line. *(Amended 2024)*
[f] A horse comes to the gate out of position.
[g] The race is started from an incorrect point.

L9. Penalties - A fine may be applied to any Driver by the Starter or Stewards for:
[a] Delaying the start.
[b] Failure to obey the Starter's or Stewards instruction. *(Amended 2007)*
[c] Rushing ahead of the inside or outside wing of the gate.
[d] Coming to the starting gate out of position.
[e] Crossing over before reaching the starting point.
[f] Interference with another Driver during the start.
[g] Failure to come up into position.
[h] Starting in advance of mark, and the horse will be disqualified.
[i] *(Removed 2024)*
[j] Leaving the track without permission.
[k] Remaining in the race when disqualified.
[l] Starting in the incorrect gate position and/or advantage of any gate position. The horse may be disqualified. *(Addition 2017)(Amended 2013/2024)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
[a] Fine £35, £65, £130; demerit points – 2
[b] Fine £35, £65, £130; demerit points – 2
[c] Disqualify; demerit points – 1
[d] Fine £35, £65, £130
[e] May be disqualified, fine £35; demerit points – 1
[f] Fine £35, £65, £130; demerit points – 2
[g] Fine £35, £65, £130; demerit points – 1
[h] Fine £35 + horse disqualified if Stewards consider there was insufficient effort to control the horse; demerit points – 2
[i] Trainer fined £35
[j] Horse disqualified from race; demerit points - 3
[k] Fine £65 if Stewards consider offence to have been deliberate; demerit points – 3
[l] Horse may be disqualified

L10. Riding In Gate - No persons shall be allowed to ride in the starting gate except the Starter and their Driver or operator, and a Patrol Judge, unless the Chief Steward of the Track has granted permission.

L11. Two Lines - In the event there are two or more lines of horses, the withdrawing of a horse that has drawn or earned a position in the front line shall not affect the position of the horses that have drawn or earned position in the second line.

L12. [a] Whenever a horse is drawn from any line, horses on the outside move in to fill up the vacancy. Where a horse has drawn a post position in the second line, the Driver of such horse may elect to start the race behind any horse in the first line so long as they do not thereby interfere with another trailing horse or deprive another trailing horse of a drawn position.
[b] 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. *(Amended 2021/2024)*

L13. Starting Without Gate - When horses are started without a gate, the Starter shall be the Commentator and shall have control of the horses from the formation of the parade until they give the word "go". No Driver shall cause unnecessary delay after the horses are called and may be subject to a fine or disqualification.

PENALTIES
Fine £35, £65, Disqualify

L14. A horse delaying the race may be started regardless of their position or gait and there shall not be a recall on account of a badly behaved horse. There shall be no recall after the starting word has been given.

L15. Unmanageable Horse - If in the opinion of the Stewards or the Starter a horse is unmanageable or liable to cause accidents or injury to any other horse or to any Driver, it may be sent off the track. When this action is taken by the Starter, they will notify the Stewards who will in turn notify the public.

L16. Badly Behaved Horse - A badly behaved horse that caused interference may, under order of the Starter, be placed in a position out of harm's way. If this action is taken the Stewards and the Public must be informed. *(Amended 2017/2024)*

SECTION M - RACING AND TRACK RULES

M1. [a] Every horse shall be in the paddock or on the race track no later than the time specified on the Start-sheet or announced over the Public Address by the Track Stewards. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] Horses should parade in number order or as otherwise directed by the Paddock Steward.

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
[a] Trainer fined £40, £65; demerit points - 1
[b] Driver fined £40, £65; demerit points – 1 *(Amended 2021)*

M2. Whilst on the track a Driver shall: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] drive their 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 *(Amended 2025)*
[a] Treat as Careless Driving -
1st Offence: Fined £65; demerit points - 3
2nd Offence: Fined £65, 2 weeks suspension; demerit points - 3
3rd Offence: Fined £65, 4 weeks suspension; demerit points - 3
[b] Driver fined minimum of £65; demerit points - 1
[c] Driver fined minimum of £65; demerit points - 1
[d] *(Removed 2021)*

M3. [a] Each track shall have a maximum number of runners in a race and on the gate as determined by their track contract with the BHRC for safety reasons. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] *(Removed 2024)*
[c] The maximum runners permitted in a C-Class drivers' race shall be 8. *(Addition 2024)*

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 their horse back, or pull their horse out of its stride.
[b] Impede the progress of another horse or cause it to break from its gait.
[c] Fail to give sufficient clearance when pulling in front of another horse or in front of the field. *(Amended 2024)*
[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] Failure to drive a horse to the extent of its ability. *(Amended 2024)*
[l] Back off from any position and subsequently come on when challenged.
[m] *(Removed 2024)*
[n] *(Removed 2024)*
[o] Drive a horse into a position where insufficient room exists.
[p] Crowd another Driver by allowing their horse to touch the Driver in front.
[q] 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 their winning a race which they were 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. *(Moved from M3b 2024)*
[r] The driver of any horse who, in the opinion of the Track Stewards or the BHRC Directors, has intentionally caused interference at any time whilst on the racetrack and whether before, during or after a race shall be guilty of an offence. *(Addition 2024)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*

[a/b/c/d/f/j/o] Horse will be disqualified
1st Offence: Fined £100; demerit points - 2
2nd Offence: Fined £130, demerit points - 4
3rd Offence: Fined £260, demerit points - 6

[e/g/h/i/l/p] Considered reckless driving - if the result is affected the horse will be disqualified or placings reversed.
1st Offence: Fined £100; demerit points - 2
2nd Offence: Fined £130, demerit points - 4
3rd Offence: Fined £260, demerit points - 6

[k] Depending on weather, track conditions, race conditions.
Fine and/or Suspend. Minimum fine of £130; demerit points – 4
[m/n] *(Removed 2024)*
[q] Horse disqualified. Driver fined minimum of £340. Minimum 14 day suspension for Driver and horse. Demerit points – 5. Trainer interviewed as to their involvement (Amended 2016/2021/2024) *(Moved to M3b 2024)*
[r] Horse disqualified and driver referred to the BHRC. *(Addition 2024)*

M5. [a] Loud shouting or other improper conduct is forbidden in a race.
[b] No Driver may have a mobile telephone or beverage in their possession whilst on the track, nor may a Driver smoke whilst on the track.
[c] Unnecessary communication between drivers and anyone other than officials while on the racetrack, 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. *(Amended 2024)*
[d] At the stewards' discretion an amateur /inexperienced driver may be requested to not carry a stopwatch for a period of time as determined by the stewards of the track on the day due to safety concerns. *(Addition 2022)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
[a] Fined £65 - £200; demerit points – 1
[b] Fined £65 - £130 - and/or suspension; demerit points – 2
[c] Fined £65 - £130 - and/or suspension; demerit points - 1 *(Amended 2021)*

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

PENALTIES
Steward's discretion, fine £50; demerit points - 1 *(Amended 2021)*

M7. *(Removed 2021; Addition 2022) (Moved to M9L 2024)*

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 *(Amended 2025)*
[a] – [c] Fined £40 - £65; demerit points - 1 *(Amended 2021)*

[d] Automatic 2 month suspension and fine £260; demerit points - 5

Use of the whip

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

M9. [a] 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 be 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 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. *(Amended 2024)*

[b] The driver shall only use the whip by means of a flicking motion of the wrist, whist 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 number of strikes used shall be not be more than 8 strikes or more than 4 strike on a 2 year old. *(Amended 2024)*

[c] The whip must not be used with severe and extreme force, for example the horse has wheals or whip marks or blood has been drawn. The horse should be examined by the track vet who shall report their finding to the track stewards who alongside video evidence will conduct an enquiry. *(Amended 2024)*

[d] The whip may be carried over the shoulder when not in use but when brought forward may not be used for 10 metres. *(Amended 2024)*

[e] The whip must not be used continuously without giving the horse time to respond. *(Amended 2024)*

[f] 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. *(Amended 2024)*

[g] The driver shall not use the butt end of the whip in a prodding or jabbing fashion. *(Amended 2024)*

[h] The whip shall not be used outside the confines of the shafts and wheel discs shall not be hit. *(Amended 2024)*

[i] The whip shall not be used in a sideways motion. *(Amended 2024)*

[j] No person shall offer inducement to or instruct a driver to use the whip contrary to the above rules. *(Amended 2024)*

[k] No driver shall be seen to be loose-lining during a race. The reins shall remain taut with contact to the bit at all times during a race. *(Amended 2024)*

[l] No Driver should take the reins in one hand and use the whip to strike the horse with the other hand. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
[a] If found using a non-approved, or modified whip (on or off the track) automatic £100 fine, 14 days driving suspension *(Amended 2024)*
[b/e/f/g] *(Amended 2024)*
Aged Horse (3 years and above)
1st Offence £65 fine and 2 whip demerit points
2nd Offence £100 fine and 4 whip demerit points
3rd Offence £130 fine and 6 whip demerit points

Two Year Old
1st Offence £75 fine and 3 whip demerit points

2nd Offence £130 fine and 6 whip demerit points
3rd Offence £160 fine and 9 whip demerit points
M9[c] Fine £650-£2000 and/or 14/28 days driver suspension
[d/i/k] *(Amended 2024)*
1st Offence £65 Fine
2nd Offence £100 Fine
3rd Offence £130 Fine
[h] £35 Fine *(Amended 2024)*
[j] Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*
[l] Horse disqualified, £130 fine; 5 demerit points *(Amended 2024)*

Any extreme contravention of the M9 rules will lead to the horse being disqualified.

M10. *(Removed 2021)*

M11. The possession of or use of any device or appliance other than the ordinary whip, crop or reins, upon any horse at any racetrack or in any race shall constitute a violation. *(Addition 2022/2024)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Fine £2000, 3 month Driver suspension

M12. No Driver or licence holder shall strike, with their 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 *(Amended 2025)*
Fine of no less than £1300 and warning off for not less than one year
Demerit points - 5 *(Amended 2021)*

Order of driving priority

M13. Driving Priorities *(Amended 2006/2024)*
[a] Firstly they shall drive the horse they own and train.
[b] Secondly, they shall drive the horse, which they own but which is trained by some other person.
[c] Thirdly they shall drive the horse trained by them but not owned by them.
[d] Fourthly if none of the horses so engaged comes within the categories set out in the foregoing priorities, they shall drive the horse approved by the Track Stewards.

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
£65 Fine *(Amended 2021/2024)*

M14 [a] 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. *(Amended 2020)*

[b] 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, they shall be allowed their choice of runner in the final, provided such choice does not contravene rule M13 of these rules.

PENALTIES
£65 Fine *(Amended 2022/2024/2025)*

M15. *(Removed 2024)*

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 they wish 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, they must be placed behind the horse or horses with whom they interfered. *(Amended 2021)*

PENALTIES
Driver fined or suspended, horse demoted or disqualified; demerit points - 3

M18. *(Removed 2024)*

M19. *(Removed 2024)*

M20. *(Removed 2024)*

M21. *(Removed 2024)*

M22. *(Removed 2024)*

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 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. *(Amended 2024)*

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 £65 and/or suspension, horse may be disqualified; demerit points - 2 *(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 M23, no fine or suspension shall be imposed on the Driver as a consequence of the interference. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Offending horse to be placed behind all affected horses.

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

PENALTIES
£130 Fine; demerit points - 4 *(Amended 2021/2024/2025)*

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.

PENALTIES
Horse placed behind all horses within one horse and sulky length.

M28. *(Removed 2024)*

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 or outside the hub rail or other demarcation which constitutes the inside or outside 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. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Horse may be disqualified.
1st offence - fine £130; demerit points - 5
2nd offence - fine £130, 4 weeks suspension; demerit points - 5
3rd offence - fine £260, 2 months suspension; demerit points - 5 *(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. [a] If a horse is classed to have fallen on a track at any stage, then it cannot run. *(Amended 2022)*
[b] *(Removed 2024)*
[c] If any Driver of 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. *(Moved from M36 2024)*

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 promoter. *(Amended 2024)*

M35. In the case of a prize which cannot be divided, the question shall be determined by lot by the promoter, who shall also decide what sum of money shall be paid to the other Owner or Owners in respect of such prize. *(Amended 2024)*

M36. *(Moved to M31c 2024)*

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, they 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)*

M38. If in the opinion of the stewards a horse is distressed or labouring during a race both the trainer and driver will be interviewed as well as the horse being examined by the vet.
[a] If the horse is found to be distressed then the horse will be suspended from racing for a period deemed appropriate by the course vet.
[b] If the driver is found not to be considering the horse's welfare then the driver will be fined and/or suspended.

SECTION N - QUALIFYING TRIALS, TIME TRIALS AND RECORDS

N1. The purpose of Qualifying Trials is to ensure that horses running under betting are able to turn in a competitive and safe performance, thus underpinning the integrity of the sport.

N2. To qualify to compete in a race with prize money and/or betting, every horse will be required to take part in a timed trial in which it will demonstrate to the Stewards that it is mannered and controllable, particularly behind the starting gate and in company, and can maintain its gait over the mile in accordance with the table in Appendix VII.

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 or raced in the previous season under the rules of the BHRC or the IHRA. *(Amended 2022/2024)*
[c] *(Removed 2024)*

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 successfully complete one qualifying trial for the only exception see rule N3(b). *(Amended 2021/2024)*
[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] Qualified horses being driven by a provisional Driver as part of the driving test procedure. *(Amended 2022)*
[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.
[h] An unqualified horse must be driven by a fully licensed Driver. *(Addition 2022)*

N5. Supervision of Qualifying Trials
No horse may be eligible to be entered to compete in Qualifying Trials unless:
[a] it is registered as a full Standardbred (i.e., the progeny of a fully registered sire and a fully registered dam), by either STAGBI or an internationally recognised Harness Racing Authority, or its European passport must be ratified by either STAGBI or an internationally recognised Harness Racing Authority. *(Amended 2017)*
[b] the registered Owner holds a current licence. *(Addition 2015)*
[c] the Trainer holds a current licence in the correct category and has been declared (in writing) to the BHRC as the registered trainer. *(Addition 2015)*
[d] the horse has been registered in writing with the BHRC as in training for a minimum period of 28 days immediately prior to entry. *(Addition 2015) (Amended 2017)*
[e] a copy of the vaccination record has been supplied to the BHRC. *(Amended 2015)*
[f] a microchip number is recorded in the passport.
[g] it complies with rule Q1.
Failure to comply with any of the above provisions will incur an automatic administration fee. In addition, the horse may not be permitted to compete. *(Amended 2015/2017/2024)*

N6. Track Stewards supervising Qualifying Trials have the responsibility to ensure that:
[a] The potential racehorse has manners behind the starting gate.
[b] The horse has manners in company and will not present a danger to itself or other runners.
[c] The horse is capable of pacing the mile in the time set in Appendix VII.

N7. Procedure during Qualifying Trials
[a] Qualifying Trials should take place under racing conditions.
[b] There should be a full complement of Track Stewards and Timekeepers to monitor the horses.
[c] The Veterinary Surgeon must be present.
[d] The horses must be started behind a mobile barrier.
[e] The horse must demonstrate its manners in company, therefore a minimum of four horses should be involved.
[f] Any horse breaking from gait will not qualify. *(Amended 2022/2024)*
[g] Horses entered to qualify, who do not withdraw before the designated time, will be liable for the full entry fee. *(Amended 2024)*
[h] *Withdrawn 2015*
[i] Track Stewards MUST be provided with a written list of horses presented to qualify, together with the name of the Driver and the Driver's colours.
[j] All horses MUST wear identifying numbers.
[k] It is the discretion of the starter on the day as to whether horses may trail the start gate in qualifying trials. *(Amended 2009/2024)*
[l] The Owner, Trainer and Driver of all horses must hold a current licence under these rules. *(Addition 2012)*
[m] All entries for Qualifying races must be sent to the BHRC Office. No additional entries will be accepted after the close of entries. *(Addition 2012) (Amended 2024)*

N8. Driving Test candidates must be clearly identified. The number of their horse and the colours to be worn by the Driver must be clearly identified on the list prepared for the Track Stewards, also how many Qualifying Trials they have previously driven in.

N9. Before signing the horse's passport the Regional or Chief Steward, or other designated Track Steward, MUST perform a careful identity check against the horses Registration Document, scan and check that the microchip matches that recorded and ensure that vaccinations for equine influenza are in date.

N10. Results of qualifying trials, including every horse whether it qualified or not, should be forwarded to the BHRC office by 10am on the next working day following racing. *(Amended 2024)*

N11. No horse may be entered for a race until it has qualified under the rules and paid its race fee for the current year. *(Amended 2024)*

Qualifying Trials held outside Race-Meetings

N12. Tracks may be permitted to hold qualifying trials outside of race days provided that the conditions above can be met.

N13. A Veterinary Surgeon must be on site at all official BHRC events. *(Amended 2022)*

N14. Driving tests (or any component of) can be taken at any official BHRC event. *(Amended 2022)*

Horses required to re-qualify by Stewards of Meetings

N15. The Track Stewards may require a horse to re-qualify if:
[a] They are dissatisfied with its performance in a race and/or it finishes outside qualifying time.
[b] The Starter deems it unruly.
[c] It behaves in such a way that the Track Stewards consider it a danger to others.
[d] It makes several breaks in one race or breaks in two consecutive races.

N16. Track Stewards may issue a track specific requirement, i.e., the horse may not race before re-qualifying at that track, or on a specified track, or a general requirement to re-qualify.

N17. Where there is any requirement to re-qualify, details should be forwarded to the BHRC office stating on what grounds the horse has to re-qualify so that the office may include the information on Stewards' Enquiry Reports circulated.

N18. Horses required to re-qualify can do so at any official BHRC event. They should notify the office that it is required by Stewards of a Meeting to re-qualify (and why). *(Amended 2022)*

TIME TRIALS

N19. Time Performances - Time performances are permitted subject to the following:

N20. Urine or blood tests are required for all horses starting for a time performance and a positive result will invalidate the trial. Payment for the test to be made by Owner.

N21. An approved timing device is required for all time performances. In the event of a failure of a timer during the progress of a time performance, no time trial performance record will be obtained.

N22. If there is a failure or malfunction of the timing device and it is discovered prior to the completion of the first half mile of the trial, there shall be a recall and it is the responsibility of the track to provide a signal plainly visible to the Driver which shall be flashed when a recall is in order.

N23. Time trial performances may be permitted by the Chief Steward of a Track, provided a full complement of licensed officials are present.

N24. In any race or performance against time excessive use of the whip shall be considered a violation and no performance record will be obtained.

N25. Any consignor, agent or sales organisation or other person, may be fined and/or suspended for selling or ising a horse with a time trial record without designating it as a time trial.

N26. Time trial performance records shall not be included in the performance lines in a race programme.

N27. Time trial performances shall be designated by preceding the time with two capital 'T's.

N28. When a horse performs against time it shall be proper to allow another horse or horses to

accompany him in the performance but not to precede or to be harnessed with or in any way attached to him.

N29. A break during a time trial is a losing effort and a losing performance shall not constitute a record.

BHRC NATIONAL AND TRACK RECORDS

N30. The time must be a winning time.

N31. Urine or blood tests according to the rules are required for all horses claiming ANY national or track record. A positive test result would invalidate any record set. *(Amended 2022)*

N32. The official track timing device is required for all records (A stopwatch is not an approved timing device) In the event of a failure of a timer during the progress of a record, no record will be obtained. *(Amended 2024)*

SECTION P - POSTPONEMENT

P1. Under exceptional circumstances, or if the weather causes the track to be in an unfit state, the BHRC Directors, Track Stewards, Land Owners and/or Promoters have the power to postpone or abandon a race meeting. The BHRC Directors have the final decision as to whether to abandon a race meeting on health, safety or welfare grounds. *(Amended 2022)*

P2. The Racecourse Executive, with the agreement of the BHRC, may, in exceptional circumstances cancel a meeting, in which case:
[a] Every effort must be made to notify all officials and participants of such cancellation.
[b] The Racecourse executive will have the option to apply to the BHRC for a convenient alternative date, which does not conflict with any other date.
[c] When a meeting is cancelled, Owners/Trainers may have the option to transfer their entry to the arranged alternative date.
[d] In the case where entry fees have been paid prior to racing date, Owners/Trainers may have the option to either transfer their entry or request a refund of entry fee.

P3. [a] In the case of Classic races, these should be raced where advertised, if possible. *(Amended 2012)*
[b] *(Removed 2024)*
[c] Any Classic race that has been started and remains unfinished on the last day of the scheduled dates, shall be declared ended and the full purse divided. Horses that are scratched after a heat and before the event is declared finished, do not participate in purse distribution. *(Amended 2012)*

P4. In order to transfer classic races to another date or track consent must be obtained with the approval of two thirds of the Owners of the horses and the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

P5. Failure to comply with the above regulations when cancelling or abandoning a meeting, will result in a fine or suspension being imposed on the Racecourse Executive concerned by the BHRC.

PART FOUR - HORSES AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION Q - HORSES

Registration

Q1. [i] To enter any racetrack on race days, every horse must have at least their first two primary flu vaccinations and be microchipped. These must be recorded in the horse's passport by a vet. *(Amended 2006)*
[ii] To be eligible to enter to race ALL horses must:
[a] be registered as a full Standardbred (i.e., the progeny of a fully registered sire and a fully registered dam) by either STAGBI or an internationally recognised Harness Racing Authority, or its European passport must be ratified by either STAGBI or an internationally recognised Harness Racing Authority. *(Amended 2013/2017)*
[b] To be identified by a microchip which is usually located on the left hand side. The microchip number must be registered with the BHRC office. *(Amended 2022)*
[c] have a current flu vaccination record completed in the passport, a copy of which has been supplied to the BHRC and complies with the criteria laid down in Appendix II. *(Amended 2015)*
[d] be qualified or requalified to race under these rules in the times and under the conditions laid down in Appendix VII. *(Amended 2005)*
[e] be registered to an Owner that holds a current licence. *(Addition 2015)*
[f] be registered, and declared as such in writing to the BHRC, to a Trainer that holds a current licence in the correct category. *(Addition 2015)*
[g] be registered in writing with the BHRC as in training with a licenced trainer for a minimum period of 28 days immediately prior to entry *(Addition 2015) (Amended 2017/2024)*
[h] have paid all relevant fees to race *(Addition 2015) (Amended 2024)*
[i] are registered by an internationally recognised racing body endorsed by the BHRC. *(Amended 2015/2024)*
Failure to comply with any of the above provisions will incur an automatic administration fee. In addition, the Owner/Trainer may be subject to a fine and/or suspension and horse may not be permitted to compete. *(Amended 2015/2017/2024)*

PENALTIES
Minimum fine of £20 *(Amended 2014/2024)*
Q2. *(Removed 2024)*

Q3. Confirmation from the BHRC of a horse's eligibility to race is required and must be confirmed to the Race Secretary/Stewards of the Meeting. *(Amended 2012)*

Q4. [a] If a flu vaccination is administered during the racing season or after any previous copy of the vaccination record has been provided to the BHRC, the Trainer and/or Owner must supply an updated copy to the BHRC within 72 hours of the vaccination. Failure to comply may incur a penalty and horse will not be permitted to compete until a copy of the vaccination record is provided to the BHRC. *(Amended 2015)*
[b] If a flu vaccination certificate is found to be incorrect or altered in any way, the Owner and/or Trainer will be referred to BHRC and the horse will be disqualified from racing until all vaccination requirements are complied with and a correct vaccination certificate is obtained.

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
[a] Fine £65. Horse not eligible for entry until rule complied with *(Addition 2015)*
[b] Altered Flu Vac, horse does not run. Owner and/or Trainer referred to BHRC

Two Year Old Horses

Q5. [a] No horse shall race before April 1st of its two year old year, and no two year old is permitted to take part in a qualifier or race more than once on any one day. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] Two year old horses may race within a seven (7) day period from the last weekend in July onwards; up until this date each season they may only run once within a seven (7) day period. *(Addition 2022)*

Q6. No two year old will be permitted to race before June 1st. *(Amended 2012/2024)*

Q7. No two year old shall be allowed to start ANY race unless it has successfully completed at least 2 qualifiers (and had the passport signed) at least five (5) days prior to the event in question (see also Classics, Section X). See also X9. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

All Horses

Q8. *(Removed 2024)*

Q9. Horses not under lease must race in the name of the bona fide Owner. Horses under lease must race in the name of the lessee and a copy of the lease agreement must be filed with the BHRC. Failure to lodge a copy of the lease agreement with the BHRC within 7 days of its finalisation shall incur a fine of £250, payable by both the lessor and lessee. *(Amended 2011)*

Q10. *Withdrawn from Rule Book 2017*

Q11. *Withdrawn from Rule Book 2013*

Q12. Imported Horses - Application to register an imported horse to race must be made to the BHRC secretary 28 days prior to its first race. All such applications must meet the following criteria: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] the name [if any], age, sex, colour, pedigree, microchip number and a performance record [if any] of the horse must be supplied. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] that the horse is not disqualified from running in that Country or State.
[c] such other particulars or information as the BHRC may require.
[d] Imported horses must qualify before racing unless they have raced or qualified in the previous season. *(Amended 2011/2021/2024)*

Q13. Visiting horses will be permitted to race on payment of an annual visitor fee and provided full information regarding race performance, current season and lifetime winnings, grade etc. is supplied, along with details of its registered Owner and Trainer, by the relevant internationally recognised Harness Racing Authority, under whose jurisdiction the horse has been competing, in writing to the BHRC office three (3) weeks before entries close for any event. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

Q14. Visiting horses must be registered as a full Standardbred (i.e., the progeny of a fully registered sire and a fully registered dam) by either STAGBI or an internationally recognised Harness Racing Authority, or its European pass must be ratified by either STAGBI or an internationally recognised Harness Racing Authority. Such horses will race under the BHRC handicap system in place at the time of racing. *(Amended 2017)*

Q15. *Withdrawn from Rule Book 2013*

Change of ownership

Q16. *Withdrawn from Rule Book 2012*

Q17. [a] All of the foregoing sections are however subject to the reservation that if a horse transfers ownership such horse may start once only under the seller's name provided that person is licensed as an Owner for the current period under these rules *(Amended 2012)*
[b] Failure to notify the BHRC within 48 hours after purchase or sale of a horse that is racing, will subject the buyer/seller to a fine and the horse will be suspended from racing until all documentation is completed. *(Amended 2024)*
[c] Any person who is a party to, whether acting as an agent or otherwise, skipping or omitting transfers of ownership in the chain of ownership of any horse shall be subject to a fine, and/or suspension, or expulsion
[d] *Withdrawn from Rule Book 2013*

PENALTIES
[a] BHRC to decide. Buyer fined; horse suspended
[c] BHRC to decide. Any party in chain of ownership fined, suspended or expelled.
[d] *Removed*

Q18. *(Moved to V15 2024)*

Q19. No Owner or Trainer shall cause or permit any horse which is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease, or which has recently been exposed to the risk of such disease, to be or to remain, upon any racecourse or within the precincts thereof, provided that it shall be a defence to an alleged breach of this Rule to provide that neither the Owner nor Trainer knew, or reasonably could have known, of such disease or the fact of such exposure. *(Moved from S32 2024)*

PENALTIES
Fine/suspension, refer to BHRC

SECTION R - EQUIPMENT

R1. All equipment must be of good and safe design and quality and maintained in sound and serviceable condition, capable of withstanding the stresses of harness racing.

R2. Any failure of any part of a horse's harness or equipment during a race must be reported to the Track Steward's immediately after the race by the Trainer or Driver.

R3. Where the Track Stewards are concerned over the condition of any harness or other equipment they may either require maintenance action or forbid any equipment that causes them concern from being used.

R4. Each horse must be safely equipped for each race and if it is determined by the Stewards that a horse has been raced with unsafe or faulty equipment, the Stewards may impose a fine on the trainer concerned. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Fine £35, £65, £100, £130

R5. The permission of the Track Stewards must be obtained before any alteration of the equipment on a horse during a race-meeting. Failure to obtain such permission could result in disqualification of the horse and a fine.

PENALTIES
Disqualification of horse and/or Fine £35, £65, £100, £130

R6. [a] Headcollars may not be worn with the bridle whilst a horse is harnessed on the racetrack on race days.
[b] Driving reins must not be knotted together and should be placed on the sulky seat underneath the Driver. *(Addition 2013)*

Sulkies

R7. Sulkies must be of conventional design with no point of hitch or any part of a shaft above a horizontal level equal to the lowest point of the horse's back. Bent shaft sulkies are not permitted i.e., the maximum measurement from the hitch position to the bend in the sulky shaft is 12 inches.

PENALTIES
Trainer Fined £35, £65, £100, £130

R8. Every sulky must be fitted with unicoloured or colourless wheel-discs on the inside and outside of the wheel unless such protection is integral in the construction of the wheel.

PENALTIES
Fine £35, £65, £100, £130

R9. Sulkies must be of neat appearance with a properly secured and tight seat. Any dangerous protruding objects/articles must be covered safely for protection. *(Amended 2006/2017/2024)*

PENALTIES
Equipment not allowed for use. *(Amended 2024)*

R10. *(Removed 2024)*

R11. It shall be the decision of the stewards at the track and/or a BHRC representative to stipulate if mud guards and mud sheets must be used at a race-meeting/official fixture due to inclement conditions. It is the responsibility of the Trainer to ensure these are present and fit for purpose and fitted correctly and safely. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

PENALTIES
No sulky can be used without mudguards/mud sheets when required. Fine £65 *(Amended 2024)*

Number Cloths

R12. Loose or No Number Cloth or Incorrect Number Cloth *(Amended 2025)*

PENALTIES
Fine Trainer £35

R13. All promoters must ensure that number cloths are maintained to a good standard and fit for purpose.

PENALTIES
Promoter Fine £65

PART FIVE - PARTICIPANTS

SECTION S - GENERAL RULES GOVERNING PARTICIPANTS

S1. [a] All participants in Harness Racing under BHRC rules are required to obtain the appropriate licence from the BHRC.
[b] All licence holders are required to complete a form agreeing to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the BHRC and where fines/costs are levied against them, undertake to pay both those fines and costs. *(Addition 2011)*
[c] All participants licensed by a recognised Governing Body will be required to complete a form agreeing to abide by the Rules and Regulations of the BHRC and where fines/costs are levied against them, undertake to pay both those fines and costs. *(Addition 2011)*

S2. All provisions under the rules shall apply to all participants equally. *(Amended 2024)*

S3. The Directors of the BHRC shall consider every application for a licence, and where the applicant is eligible under these rules to hold the licence applied for, may: *(Amended 2024)*
[a] require an applicant to provide such information as is reasonably considered necessary to determine the application. *(Addition 2015)*
[b] Grant the same subject to such conditions or restrictions, if any, they think appropriate to impose.
[c] In the case of an applicant for a Driver's licence, may require them to produce a satisfactory medical certificate of fitness to ride or drive. *(Amended 2024)*
[d] At their absolute discretion refuse to grant the same, where they consider the issue of such licence is not in the interests of racing.
[e] Require any applicant who claims to hold a licence to drive or train granted by any Racing Association outside Great Britain, to produce the same for inspection.

S4. Every such licence shall continue in force until the 31st day of December next following the issue thereof, and shall then expire, unless granted for a specific period expiring at an earlier date, or cancelled, withdrawn or voided.

S5. In dealing with any application for renewal, the Directors of the BHRC shall have the same power as in S3 above. *(Amended 2024)*

S6. The Directors of the BHRC may, at their discretion, cancel or withdraw any licence or suspend any licence for such period during the currency thereof, if they consider there are reasonable grounds for so doing. *(Amended 2024)*

S7. On being notified of the cancellation, withdrawal or suspension of a licence, the holder thereof shall forthwith return the same to the Secretary.

S8. No bookmaker shall be granted a Driver's licence and no Driver shall be allowed to stand as a bookmaker or assist a bookmaker in any capacity whatsoever.

S9. No bookmaker shall be granted a Trainer's licence and no Trainer shall be allowed to stand as a bookmaker or assist a bookmaker in any capacity whatsoever.

S10. Any change of name (e.g., due to marriage) should be notified to the BHRC within 28 days.

DRIVERS

S11. [a] If in the opinion of the Track Stewards, a Driver/licence holder is for any reason unfit or incompetent to drive or refuses to comply with the directions of the Stewards or is reckless in their conduct and endangers the safety of horses or other Drivers in the race, they will be required to stand down for the remainder of the day. *(Amended 2007/2024)*
[b] All Drivers who have reached the age of 65 may, at the discretion of the BHRC Council, have to undergo a medical examination at their own expense. *(Addition 2011)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
[a] Driver stood down, Fine up to £130, report to BHRC. *(Addition 2024)*

S12. [a] Drivers must wear either their own or Owner's colours, which must be registered with the BHRC, and clean white trousers, and shall not be permitted to drive in a race or other public performance unless, in the opinion of the Judges, they are properly dressed, their driving outfits clean, and they are well groomed. The BHRC must be informed at time of entry if colours other than the Driver's own are to be worn. Any change of colours during the season must be notified to the BHRC immediately. All Drivers must be of smart appearance and all fastenings, buttons, zips and tapes must be fastened.
[b] Drivers must not wear their colours in the area of the bookmakers.

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Fine £35, £65
Demerit points - 2

S13. During inclement weather conditions, Drivers may wear rain suits either of their colours or made of a transparent material through which their colours can be distinguished, or such other rain suits as may be allowed at the discretion of the Track Stewards.

S14. The Track Stewards or Racecourse Executive may insist that a Driver must wear their own colours or may insist on the use of track colours provided by themselves.

S15. [a] All Drivers on passing their BHRC driving test must register their own distinct racing colours. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] Owners/Public Trainers may, if they so wish, continue to register their own colours.
[c] The person responsible for entering the horse must declare whose colours the Driver will be wearing.

S16. A participant must wear a protective helmet with a chin strap securely fastened under the chin at all times when mounted in a sulky or other vehicle behind a horse, or in the saddle, on the track. The protective helmet must meet, as a minimum, BS EN1348 standard or current equivalent standard. No appendages will be permitted. *(Amended 2022)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Fine £130 and/or Fourteen 14 day suspension

S17. Only one person will be permitted to ride on a sulky at any time whilst on a racetrack and such person must hold a current Driver's licence. (Except in the case of Pony Exhibition Events) *(Amended 2025)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Driver fine £130 and/or 14 day suspension

S18. All Drivers/riders when on the track on race days are required to wear a Body Protector, which offers full back protection, and which is tested and approved to the European Standard - EN 13158:2000 or current equivalent standard. *(Amended 2022)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Fine £130. Fourteen (14) day suspension

S19. All Drivers must wear footwear with a substantial heel, made of good leather or synthetic material. Under no circumstances should trainers, wellington boots or other insubstantial footwear be worn unless permission is given by the track steward. *(Amended 2022)*

PENALTIES
£35 Fine *(Addition 2024) (Amended 2025)*

S20. [a] All drivers must wear registered racing colours when warming up a horse prior to racing or at any time when on the race-track at an official BHRC fixture unless permission is given by the track steward. *(Amended 2022)*
[b] All Drivers must parade or remain in proper post parade order, unless excused by the Stewards, until the parade has passed in front of the grandstand and the horses have turned on the track.

RULES COMMON TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

S21. All participants must produce the horse's 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 2021)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Horse not allowed to run
1st offence – warning and horse not allowed to run
2nd offence – fine £130 and horse not allowed to run
3rd offence – fine £260 and horse not allowed to run
Fine to double with each offence

S22. Only Owners, Trainers, Drivers, Trainer's Assistant, Assistants and Junior Members of horses competing in that race are entitled to admission to the paddock, unless prior permission has been obtained from the Track Stewards for a handler to attend the horse.
"While all reasonable care is taken the BHRC cannot be held responsible for the safety of any unlicensed person found in a licensed area" *(Amended 2024)*

S23. In the event any person is involved in an accident on the racecourse a record must be completed on the Stewards Enquiry form and noted on the Chief Steward's Report; copies must be forwarded to the BHRC within 24 hours of the meeting. The officials on duty should ensure that any drivers undergo a medical examination, and that the veterinary surgeon checks any horses involved and provides a written report for the track stewards. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

S24. It shall be an offence under the Rules for any person to drive while medically unfit to do so, or while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If a concern is raised drivers may be requested to see the medical facility in attendance who will confirm if they are 'fit to drive'. In certain circumstances stewards may request a formal doctor's certificate. *(Amended 2022)*

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC (*Amended 2024)*

S25. When directed by the Stewards, or an authorised official of the BHRC, participants shall submit to a breath analysis test, or any other test. Any driver who shows a positive reading shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any participant who refuses to submit to a breath analysis test as required by the rules shall be prohibited from driving on that day and is liable to a fine and/or suspension and being referred to the BHRC. *(Amended 2022)*

PENALTIES
Fine £130, suspend for race day, report to BHRC *(Amended 2025)*

S26. Where breath analysis testing equipment is not available, if, in the opinion of the Track Stewards a person is unfit to drive, or whose conduct may reflect adversely on the sport due to alcohol or drug impairment, they shall be suspended forthwith for the remainder of that day and may be subject to a further suspension and fined as the Stewards see fit and referred to BHRC.

PENALTIES
Fine £130, suspend for race day, report to BHRC *(Amended 2024/2025)*

S27. The personal use by any participant of any illicit drug is prohibited. Random testing for personal drug use may be carried out on the instruction of the Stewards.

PENALTIES
Immediate suspension, Fine £130 refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024/2025)*

S28. *(Removed 2024)*

S29. *(Removed 2024)*

S30. *(Removed 2024)*

S31. Failure to report fraudulent proposal. - If any person shall be approached with any offer or promise of a bribe, or a wager, or with a request or suggestion for a bribe, or for any improper, corrupt or fraudulent act in relation to racing, or that any race shall be conducted other than fairly and honestly, it shall be the duty of such person to report the details thereof immediately to the Chief Steward.

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

S32. No Owner or Trainer shall cause or permit any horse which is suffering from any infectious or contagious disease, or which has recently been exposed to the risk of such disease, to be or to remain, upon any racecourse or within the precincts thereof, provided that it shall be a defence to an alleged breach of this Rule to provide that neither the Owner nor Trainer knew, or reasonably could have known, of such disease or the fact of such exposure.

PENALTIES
Fine/suspension, refer to BHRC

S33. Any licence holder found guilty of committing an act of cruelty on a horse shall be liable to a fine and/or suspension. The directors of the BHRC shall have the authority to order an investigation and a hearing and to impose a penalty for any act of cruelty or neglect of a horse committed by a licence holder whether on or off the track. All licensed persons must have regard of the Horse Animal Welfare Statement published by the British Harness Racing Club. *(Amended 2017/2024)*

PENALTIES
If found guilty, full suspension of all licences for a maximum of 10 years and/or fine of £5000 depending on the severity of the offence. Refer to BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

S34. [a] Any licence holder who participates at a race-meeting which is not approved by the BHRC, or not sanctioned by a recognised governing body of another country, may be fined for each such offence, and may be suspended or expelled.
[b] A horse which has raced at such meetings may return to racing under BHRC rules providing it has become the property of a current BHRC Licence Holder and subject to approval of the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Immediate suspension of all licences, refer to BHRC

S35. Road Racing in any form is absolutely forbidden, and it is illegal for any licence holder to participate in or promote such racing. Any licence holder participating in Road Racing in any capacity shall be subject to a mandatory fine of not less than £3,000 and warning off for a period of not less than three years. The BHRC reserve the right to share any information they have regarding road racing with the police. *(Amended 2016/2024)*

PENALTIES
Fine not less than £3,000 and warning off not less than 3 years. *(Amended 2024)*

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

S36. No owner, trainer, driver, attendant of a horse, or any licensed person or steward shall

[a] use improper language (By any means either speech or any form of communication) to any persons, licenced or unlicenced or to an officer of the BHRC,

[b] be guilty of any improper conduct toward any persons, licenced or unlicenced, or Stewards, or person serving under their orders. *(Amended 2024/2025)*

PENALTIES
Fine up to £500 and/or suspension *(Amended 2024/2025)*

S37. [a] No owner, trainer, driver, or attendant of a horse, or any other person, at any time or place shall commit an assault, or an assault and battery, upon any person, licenced or unlicensed. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] No owner, trainer, driver, or attendant of a horse, or any other person, at any time or place shall commit a breach of the peace. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

S38. If any Owner, Trainer, or Driver of a horse shall threaten or join with others in threatening not to race, or not to declare in, because of the entry of a certain horse or horses, or a particular person, thereby compelling or trying to compel the Race Secretary to reject certain eligible entries, it shall be immediately reported to the BHRC Office and the offending parties may be suspended pending a hearing before a BHRC Disciplinary Panel.

PENALTIES*(Amended 2025)*
Steward's discretion, fine £35 minimum, £130 maximum
Immediate suspension of all licences, refer to the BHRC

S39. No Owner, Trainer or Driver of a horse shall bet or cause any other person to bet on their behalf, on any other horse in the race in which they have a horse engaged.

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC

S40. Any person shall not:
[a] carry out any misconduct, on their part or on the part of a licence holder of the BHRC, fraudulent in its nature or injurious to the sport of Harness Racing. Any such misconduct, although not specified in these rules, is forbidden.
[b] say, publish, write, or cause to be said, published or written, anything malicious, intimidatory or otherwise improper about a Governing Body, its members, employees or its officials or anyone else associated with the harness racing industry.
[c] whether alone or in association with others, say, publish or write, or cause to be said, published or written, anything intended improperly to influence a decision of the BHRC, its members, employees or its officials or anyone else associated with the harness racing industry, on any matter.
[d] whilst acting as administrator to social media pages, allow comments to be published which are malicious, intimidatory or otherwise improper about a Governing Body, its members, employees or its officials or anyone else associated with the harness racing industry. Said administrator shall be deemed to take full responsibility for such comments.
[e] whether individually or in concert with one another, fraudulently and corruptly, by any means, affect or attempt to affect the outcome of any race or affect or attempt to affect a false registration, or commit any other act fraudulent in its nature and/or injurious to the sport.
All licensed persons must have regard of the Social Media Policy published by the BHRC. *(Amended 2017)*

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

Any person found guilty of a breach of section S40 shall be subject to a suspension and/or fine and/or warning off. *(Amended 2025)*

S41. If two or more persons shall combine and confederate together, in any manner, regardless of where the said persons may be located, for the purpose of violating any of the rules of the BHRC and shall commit some act in furtherance of the said purpose and plan, it shall constitute a conspiracy and a violation.

PENALTIES
Immediate suspension, refer to BHRC

S42. Financial Responsibility - Any participant who shall demonstrate financial irresponsibility by accumulating unpaid obligations, defaulting in obligations, issuing one or more cheques that are dishonoured, or payment refused, may be denied a licence by the BHRC or may be suspended and/or fined and/or Warned Off on order by a Disciplinary Panel of the BHRC. *(Amended 2009)*

PENALTIES
Immediate suspension, refer to BHRC

S43. No Owner, Trainer, Driver, attendant or other person representing a horse which has previously tested positive for equine infections shall knowingly cause said horse to be declared into any race; and no Owner, Trainer, Driver, attendant or other person shall seek to bring about the transfer of such a horse without first notifying the prospective purchaser or transferee of the fact that the horse had previously tested positive for equine infections.

PENALTIES
Horse to be inspected by a vet. Decided on vet's report. If positive, immediate suspension of all parties and refer to BHRC

S44. Any violation of any of these rules within Section S shall be punishable by a fine, and/or suspension, and/or Warning Off. *(Amended 2009)*

S45. Failure to comply with stewards' instructions.

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
Fine £35/65/130; demerit points – 2

SECTION T - OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

T1. Objections may be made by an Owner, authorised agent, Trainer or Driver of one of the contending horses and shall be made to the Chief Steward of the Track, and contain at least one specific charge which, if true, would prevent the horse from winning prize money or competing in the race. An objection may also be made by a Track Steward or licensed official of a meeting in their official capacity. Such objections must be made within five minutes of the race being run. *(Amended 2024)*

T2. The result of every objection shall be determined by at least three Track Stewards. *(Amended 2024)*

T3. When an objection has been duly made it shall not be withdrawn or surrendered without approval of the Track Stewards.

T4. *(Removed 2024)*

T5. If the placings of a race are altered as the result of an objection, the horse shall be regarded as having been disqualified and the Owner and any other person who shall have been paid any prize money or stakes, or awarded a prize in respect of the running of such horse in the race, shall repay all such money and stakes and return all other prizes so received, to the Racecourse Executive or the donor thereof, as the case may be, and such prize money and stakes and other prizes for the race shall be distributed according to the decision made on the objection.

T6. Pending the Track Stewards' decision any prize money that may be affected by the outcome of the objection shall be withheld.

T7. An objection charging that:
[a] a horse which ran was not the horse which it was represented to be at the time of entry.
[b] a horse has run in contravention of the Rules of Ownership or Partnership.
[c] a horse has run in contravention of the Rules of Training.
[d] a horse has run in contravention of the Rules of Handicapping (i.e., off its wrong mark).
[e] a horse was run in contravention of the Rules relating to unrecognised meetings.
[f] *(Removed 2024)*
[g] a horse or its Driver was in breach of these Rules of Racing.
must be received not later than three [3] days of the conclusion of the meeting.

T8. In the case of Fraud or wilful misstatement, there shall be no limit to the time for objecting, providing the Stewards are satisfied that there has been no unnecessary delay on the part of the objector.

T9. All costs and expenses in relation to determination of any objection and/or rehearing shall be paid by such persons and in such proportions as the Stewards shall direct.

SECTION U - APPEALS TO THE STEWARDS OF THE BHRC

U1. *(Removed 2024)*

U2. An Owner, Trainer, authorised agent or Driver of one of the participating horses in the race may appeal the decision and rules of the Track Stewards. The appeal may be taken upon any question pertaining to the conduct of a race, interpretation of the rules, decisions relative to the outcome of a race, application of penalties, or other actions affecting owners, Drivers or horses, but it must be based upon a specific charge, which, if true, would warrant modification or reversal of the decision. Provided that no appeal shall lie against any decision which:
[a] By these Rules is declared to be conclusive or final, or otherwise not subject to appeal, or
[b] Not withstanding [a] an appeal may be lodged against any action deemed to be against a person's rights under the Human Rights Act of 1998. *(Amended 2011)*

U3. [a] Notice of intent to appeal a decision of Track Stewards must be made in writing to the BHRC within 72 hours of receipt of notice of the decision or ruling. *(Amended 2011)*
[b] Notice of intent to appeal a decision of BHRC Directors must be made in writing to the BHRC within 14 days of receipt of notice of the decision or ruling. *(Amended 2011)*
[c] A deposit of £200 must be lodged with the BHRC (for an internal appeal) or £600 plus costs (for an external appeal) by the appellant, which may be forfeited if the appeal is dismissed. *(Amended 2022)*

U4. All appeals must be made in writing on the official form, which may be obtained from the BHRC website or the BHRC office. *(Amended 2024)*

U5. In case of an appeal, prize money affected by the appeal shall be deposited by the track with the BHRC, pending disposition of the appeal.

U6. Appeals must be convened within a calendar month of receipt of Notice of Appeal by the BHRC Office. The appellant will be notified of the Appeal Hearing in writing by first class recorded post or by email, giving seven (7) calendar days clear notice. Failure to attend may result in dismissal of the appeal. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

U7. Pending disposition of the appeal, all penalties imposed shall be stayed by order of the BHRC, depending on where the appeal lies.

U8. The Appeal Panel shall, if the appeal is abandoned or not allowed, assess a penalty of £100 and in the case of an appeal disallowed, the appellant shall be responsible for the payment of costs relating to the appeal.

U9. In the case of an appeal against rejection or revocation of licences, the appellant must deposit with their appeal the sum of £200 in trust with the BHRC. The deposit amount will be refunded to the appellant in the event that no costs are assessed by the Appeal Panel. They may however be applied to costs where the Appeal Panel assesses costs against the appellant. *(Amended 2022)*

U10. In every case where a penalty is imposed, and such penalty has been appealed to the BHRC, such appeal, if requested, may delay such suspension until a hearing has been held and the merits of the appeal ruled upon. The delay will begin when the person appealing files in writing with the notice of appeal with the Secretary of the BHRC, such notice to be filed within 72 hours after the posting of the decision or penalty from which the appeal is taken. Notice shall state the grounds of the appeal. *(Amended 2024)*

U11. Costs. The Governing Body may determine all such costs and apportion such costs to be payable by such persons.

SECTION V - FINES, SUSPENSIONS, DISQUALIFICATION

V1. Fines - Suspension Until Paid

[a] All persons who have been fined under these rules and who have not met the agreed payment terms shall be suspended until said fine has been paid in full. *(Amended 2024)*

[b] Where fines have remained unpaid for a period of seven years, they may be dropped from the accounts of the Treasurer of the BHRC. However, such action will not affect the suspension or monies owed. *(Amended 2024)*

[c] Unpaid obligations will attract a monthly administration charge of £5 which shall be added to and become part of the original debt.

[d] All fines which are collected shall be reported to the BHRC within 28 days and 50% remitted to the BHRC.

[e] All track fines should be paid within 8 days and all other fines should be paid within 28 days. *(Amended 2024)*

[f] In cases where debts remain unpaid the BHRC reserves the right to pass debts over to a debt collection agency or refer the case to the small claims court. *(Addition 2024)*

V2. Recording and Posting Penalties - Written or printed notice of any penalty imposed under these Rules shall be delivered to the person penalised and notice shall be sent immediately to the office of the BHRC. The secretary of the BHRC shall transmit notice of suspension to all tracks; and thereupon the offender thus punished shall suffer the same penalty and disqualification with each track. Results of issues may be advertised on the website or in The Calendar. *(Amended 2022)*

V3. Commencement of any Suspension shall normally be 8 clear days from the day of imposition of the suspension when imposed on a licence holder, being a Trainer or Driver. For all other categories of licence holder such as Owner/Groom the suspension shall be immediate, as shall a suspension imposed on any horse/s. Stewards shall, however, have the authority to impose an immediate suspension should they deem it necessary. *(Amended 2024/2025)*

V4. Effect of Penalty on Horse - No horse shall have the right to compete while owned or controlled wholly or in part by a suspended or disqualified person. A person making an entry for a horse suspended or disqualified, shall be held liable for the entrance fee thus contracted without the right to compete unless the penalty is removed. A suspended or disqualified person who shall drive, train or own a suspended or disqualified horse, which shall perform in a race shall be fined for each offence.

V5. Fraudulent Transfer - The fraudulent transfer of a horse by any person or persons under suspension in order to circumvent said suspension, shall constitute a violation and shall be punishable by a fine, further suspension or a combination thereof. Any transfer of a horse from a person who has outstanding fines or current suspensions shall be investigated and may not be recognised as a transfer by the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

[b] In the event of an Owner being the subject of an enquiry by the British Harness Racing Stewards or the Stewards of a Meeting, the BHRC will not recognise for the purpose of racing the transfer of their horses pending the result of the enquiry. Such enquiry must be held within twenty-one (21) days of their receiving notice of the enquiry. *(Amended 2024)*

[c] When an Owner is suspended, the BHRC will not recognise for the purpose of racing the transfer of their horses as from the date on which the penalty was imposed, and until the suspension is terminated. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES

Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

V6. Suspended Person - Any Track wilfully allowing a suspended or disqualified person to drive in a race, or a suspended or disqualified horse to start in a race after notice from the BHRC Office, shall be together with its officers, subject to a fine for each offence, and/or suspension.

PENALTIES

Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

V7. A suspended or disqualified person cannot act as an official of a track. A track shall not, after receiving notice of such penalty, employ or retain in its employ a suspended or disqualified person at or on the track during the progress of a race-meeting. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES

Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

V8. A person warned off or disqualified by the Stewards of the British Harness Racing Club may not enter the licenced areas of any racecourse licenced by the British Harness Racing Club. *(Amended 2024)*

V9. Dishonoured Cheques:

[a] Any licence holder of the BHRC who pays an entry, a fine or other claim to the BHRC, or an entry or fine to any Track affiliated to the BHRC, by cheque, which upon presentation is protested, payment refused or otherwise dishonoured, shall be subject to a fine, and the winnings of the horse or horses of that particular race, declared void and said persons and horses suspended until the dishonoured amount and fine are paid and the fraudulent winnings returned. *(Amended 2024)*

[b] Any Track Affiliated to the BHRC, which pays prize money to a Licence Holder of the BHRC by cheque, which upon presentation is protested, payment refused or otherwise dishonoured, shall be referred to the Directors of the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES

[a] Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

[b] Refer to BHRC

V10. Penalties imposed by Affiliated Tracks - All penalties imposed by BHRC Affiliated Tracks shall be recognised and enforced by the BHRC upon notice from the Track to the Secretary of the BHRC [Subject to Appeals under Rule U1].

V11. Reciprocity of Penalties - All persons and horses under suspension or disqualification by a recognised Harness Racing Governing Body, upon notice from Association to the Secretary of the BHRC, be suspended or disqualified by the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
BHRC to issue penalty

V12. Modification of Penalty - Any suspension imposed by Stewards can be removed or modified by a BHRC Disciplinary Panel upon consultation with the Stewards and Track on whose grounds the penalty was imposed.

V13. [a] Any licensed person who fails to appear before either the BHRC Directors or, in the case of participants, before the Track Stewards of any Race-meeting, when called upon to do so, will incur an automatic suspension in all capacities [with immediate effect] until such time as they appear before the Stewards concerned.
[b] Where a participant fails to appear before the Track Stewards the Chief Steward must notify the BHRC Office within 24 hours. *(Amended 2024)*
[c] Where a participant leaves an enquiry before it is concluded they will incur an automatic suspension in all capacities [with immediate effect] until such time as they appear before the Stewards concerned. *(Addition 2024)*

PENALTIES
[a/b/c] Refer to BHRC (*Amended 2024)*

V14. Any person aiding, abetting or initiating the non-compliance by another person of a penalty given by the BHRC or anybody of Stewards, shall be referred to the BHRC and shall have any licences they may hold suspended until decided otherwise by the BHRC.

V15. Where the BHRC or any other recognised body affiliated to the BHRC has ordered that costs be paid ("the costs order") in respect of investigations or tests of a specified horse or horses (by way of example but not limited to costs incurred by the BHRC and its agents in furtherance of the Integrity Testing Regime) those horses to which the costs order relates will not be permitted to run in races falling within the jurisdiction of the BHRC or any of its affiliated bodies until those costs have been paid. For the avoidance of doubt this restriction will apply whether or not the horse remains in the same ownership as at the time that the costs order was made. A list of such horses will be published in the Calendar and on the BHRC website. *(Moved from Q18 2024)*

PART SIX - LICENCES

SECTION W - OWNER'S, TRAINER'S AND DRIVER'S LICENCES

OWNERS

W1. Owners or Lessees are required to obtain a licence, valid for the current year, from the British Harness Racing Club before any entry of any horse on to any track.

W2. [a] Application for an Owner's licence must be on the correct form with all necessary declarations completed and signed. *(Amended 2016)*
[b] *(Removed 2021)*

W3. The minimum age for holding an Owner's licence is eighteen years.

W4. In the event of an Owner being the subject of an enquiry by the British Harness Racing Stewards or the Stewards of a Meeting, the BHRC will not recognise for the purpose of racing the transfer of their horses pending the result of the enquiry. Such enquiry must be held within twenty-one (21) days of their receiving notice of the enquiry. *(Amended 2017)*

W5. When an Owner is suspended, the BHRC will not recognise for the purpose of racing the transfer of their horses as from the date on which the penalty was imposed, and until the suspension is terminated. *(Amended 2014)*

W6. *(Removed 2024)*

W7. [a] Except as in W11. below, no Owner shall make use of an assumed name for the purpose of entering or running horses, and any horse entered under an assumed name is liable, on objection, to be disqualified. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] Any person running a horse under a false identity will be declared a disqualified person and warned off by the Directors of the BHRC. *(Amended 2024) (Moved from W9 2024)*

W8. In the event of the death of a registered Owner their personal representative may continue to run any horses currently registered in their name under the description "Executor of ...(deceased)" until the estate is settled provided that notification is given to the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

W9. *(Moved to W7b 2024)*

JOINT OWNERSHIP, RACING, FARM, CORPORATE, SYNDICATE OR STABLE NAME

W10. Racing, farm, corporate, syndicate or stable names, hereinafter referred to as "registered stables', may be used by Owners or lessees provided the names are first registered with the BHRC and STAGBI. No registration will be granted to a name that is the same as or similar to one already registered with the BHRC or STAGBI. The Secretary may reject an application for a name considered to be confusing, unbecoming to the sport, or which exceeds 18 letters, including spaces.

W11. Stable names may be registered either as a prefix or suffix on payment of the appropriate fee and completion of form. *(Amended 2024)*

W12. [a] Applications for registered stables shall include the names and addresses of each member thereof. All registered stables, partnerships or syndicates must obtain the correct BHRC licence. All members of a registered stable, partnership or syndicate must be registered with the BHRC in the manner prescribed for combined ownership. Each member of a registered stables must sign a document designating the first named member, who shall be the person to whom all correspondence will be sent. Documents bearing the signature of the first named member will be considered binding upon the members of the registered stable. *(Amended 2006/2015/2016)*
[b] Persons aged 15-17 years may be registered as members of a Syndicate of Ownership, provided that the designated first named Owner is aged 18 years or over. *(Addition 2016)*

W13. The Secretary shall be notified forthwith if additional persons become members of a registered stable or when a member thereof becomes disassociated. Consent in writing must be given by any member being disassociated from a registered stable.

W14. Any liability of a registered stable and any penalty imposed upon the stable shall apply to all of its members and/or horses owned wholly or in part by the stable. In the event one or more of the members of a registered stable is suspended, the suspension shall also include any horses owned wholly or in part by the stable.

W15. Corporate sponsor's prefixes/suffixes may be added to a horse's names for racing purposes on payment of a fee. The corporate prefix/suffix to be removed when the association with corporate sponsor ceases. Race cards and Start Sheets should also show the horse's originally registered name.

DRIVER'S LICENCES

W16. [a] No person shall drive a horse in any race without having first obtained a Driver's licence, valid for the current year, from the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] *(Removed 2022)*
[c] 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)*
[d] No Driver, holding a licence from the BHRC, shall participate or drive at a race-meeting, which is not affiliated to the BHRC. *(Addition 2024)*

PENALTIES
[a] Horse disqualified, lose prize money, refer to BHRC
[d] Refer to BHRC *(Amended 2024)*

Provisional Licences

W17. [a] Anyone wishing to obtain a BHRC Driving Licence should apply to the BHRC Secretary, with a completed application form for a Provisional Drivers Licence, photo ID, photograph and relevant fee. A Provisional Licence (Yellow Card) will then be issued. *(Amended 2022)*
[b] This Licence will qualify the holder to take part in official qualifying races and also to work out horses prior to qualifying drives. *(Amended 2012)*
[c] *(Removed 2024)*

W18. A provisional Driver may not take part in any race other than a qualifying trials. The provisional Driver must wear some clearly visible armband, colours or other distinguishing item as directed by the Racetrack Management. *(Amended 2024)*

W19. Driving Tests for persons who have not previously held a BHRC licence to drive will be conducted only at tracks approved by the BHRC for this purpose, where start car facilities are available.

W20. After successfully completing the verbal driving test and then demonstrating all the competencies (as listed on the Yellow Card) in qualifying trial, the holder of a Provisional Drivers Licence will be eligible to take a driving test. Before and after each drive in qualifiers the provisional license holder must report to the appointed Track or Regional/Deputy Regional Steward who will sign and complete the details on the provisional licence (Yellow Card). *(Amended 2022/2024)*

W21. Driving Tests can be taken at either Hard or Grass Tracks with a mobile gate start. Anyone wishing to take a test must apply to the BHRC office concerned giving seven (7) days' notice. *(Amended 2024)*

W22. The Test will be conducted in two parts:
[a] Part One: A verbal test on the Rules and Regulations of the BHRC will need to be successfully completed before being allowed to drive on a track.
[b] Part Two: Will take place in qualifying trials (minimum of 4) with at least four (4) horses taking part. They must complete at least one successful drive on a hard track and at least one successful drive on a grass track. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

W23. [a] 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. *(Amended 2021)*
[b] Should the applicant fail the test this will be recorded on the card and a report sent to the BHRC office. The applicant may re-apply for a further test after two more successful drives in qualifying races. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Any infringement of the rules by a Provisional Driver may result in a fine or other action and will be recorded on their licence card.

W24. *(Removed 2024)*

W25. Saddle Licence - Tests will be conducted by stewards at tracks holding such events, on similar lines to a driving test. Holders of saddle licences are not licensed to drive in races and holders of driving licences are not licensed to race under saddle. *(Amended 2024)*

W26. Minimum age - The minimum age for driving licences shall be 15 years in Sulky and 15 years in Saddle. *(Amended 2024)*

Amateur Licences

W27. *(Removed 2024)*

W28. *(Removed 2024)*

'C' Class Licences

W29. A C Class Driver is a Driver who has less than eight wins to their credit. *(Amended 2024)*

Upgrading from 'C' to 'B' – 'C' Class licences will be upgraded to 'B' Class upon the Driver achieving 8 wins, 50 drives and approval from the licencing panel. *(Amended 2022)*

'B' Class Licences

W30. Upgrading from 'B' to 'A' - 'B' Class licences will be upgraded to 'A' Class upon the Driver achieving 50 wins and approval from the licencing panel. *(Amended 2022)*

W31. *(Removed 2024)*

W32. The additional fee for 'A' or 'B' Class Licences, after upgrading, will not be payable until the following year. *(Amended 2024)*

'A' Class [Advanced/International] Licences

W33. *(Removed 2022)*

W34. Applications for upgrading licences will be considered at the discretion of the licencing panel. *(Amended 2022)*

All Driving Licences

W35. Lapsed licences - If a Driver has held a licence under BHRC rules within five [5] years of application, such licence may be re-issued. Applicants may be required to drive in one or more qualifying trial[s] to the satisfaction of the Stewards in order to prove they are safe and competent to hold a licence before it will be issued.
Should an application come from a person that has let their license lapse for over five [5] years then such a person will need to complete a new application and test. *(Amended 2024)*
Should a Driver applying for a licence have driven under the jurisdiction of another recognised governing body in the intervening time the licence issued shall be at the discretion of the BHRC

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC

TRAINERS LICENCES

W36. [a] Each application or licence upgrade may be asked to satisfy the BHRC that they are competent to and capable of training horses with due regard to the welfare of the horses in their care, the interest of Owners and the sport as a whole. In determining a person's competence, the BHRC will have regard to all matters they deem relevant. *(Amended 2022)*
[b] No person shall train horses or be programmed as Trainer of record, without first having obtained the appropriate Trainer's Licence from the BHRC. Violations of this rule shall incur a fine and/or suspension or disqualification and all horses listed under the name of such Trainer shall be suspended and referred to BHRC.

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC

W37. [a] Trainer's licences will only be issued to named persons and not to racing, farm, corporate, stable names or trading names.
[b] All Trainer Licences shall be specific to registered premises and the Trainer shall not be permitted to train at or from any other stables (except when attending away race-meetings). Trainers are required to submit a written application to the BHRC for any change of premises, which may involve an interview and/or incur inspection fees. *(Addition 2015)*
[c] Where a person is a Trainer in name only, a possible reason for this being to allow another person licenced or not licensed or suspended or warned off to train, then that Trainer shall be fined and suspended. *(Addition 2011) (Amended 2024)*
[d] *(Removed 2024)*

PENALTIES
[c] Fine no less than £1300 and warned off for a period of no less than 1 year. *(Amended 20)*

W38. Applicants for Trainer licences are required to demonstrate or confirm that:
[a] they are over 18 years of age at the time of issue.
[b] they can demonstrate the capability and competence to train and properly gear a horse for a race.
[c] They have access to appropriate training facilities which may be inspected and have security of tenure for any premises they wish to register. *(Amended 2022)*
[d] *(Removed 2024)*
[e] they are otherwise in all the circumstances suitable to hold a licence (i.e., that they are 'fit and proper').
A Public Trainer licence will be issued at the discretion of the BHRC licensing panel. *(Amended 2024)*

W39. Trainers Licences will be issued in the following categories:

Permit to Train - The holder of a Permit to Train would only be qualified to train horses which are the sole property of themselves, their spouse or partner resident at the same address, parents, sons or daughters.

Licence to Train - This category is for persons training their own horses and no more than two belonging to persons outside their immediate family [as defined above]. It is confined to training from their registered premises and any change of premises must be notified. A person training as an employee for one named Owner may also be eligible for this category of licence.

Public Trainer's Licence. A Public Trainer's Licence entitles the holder to train any Standardbred horse for racing under these rules.

W40. [a] Any person wishing to apply for a Public Trainer Licence or a Licence to Train may be required, in addition to W38, to demonstrate or confirm that: (*Amended 2024)*
[i] they have appropriate insurances if necessary (i.e., Public Liability Insurance).
[ii] they have a minimum of two horses in training.
[iii] they have a minimum of two years training experience.
[iv] undergo a satisfactory inspection of facilities. *(Amended 2022)*
[v] they are not currently the subject of any proceedings of a criminal nature, have not been charged in connection with any alleged criminal offence and are not aware of any circumstances which may lead to them being charged. *(Amended 2015)*
[b] Licence Renewal Applications in reference to a Public Trainer Licence must be made prior to 31st January of the year for which the licence will be valid. Applications received after this deadline, unless applying for the first time, will incur a daily fee of £10. *(Addition 2014) (Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Daily £10 late fee.

W41. A Public Trainer will be required to satisfy the Stewards that they own, leases or has security of tenure for any premises they wish to register to train from. The Stewards must also be satisfied that the premises are suitable for the training of Standardbred horses and these premises will be subject to an inspection by the BHRC. *(Amended 2015/2024)*

W42. A Public Trainer Licence shall be specific to registered premises and the Trainer shall not be permitted to train at or from any other stables (except when attending away race-meetings). Trainers are required to submit a written application to the BHRC for any change of premises, which may involve an interview and/or incur inspection fees. *(Amended 2015)*

W43. Junior Members/Assistants are required to obtain a licence from the BHRC licensing panel before they are allowed into any licenced areas on any racecourse. Junior members must be between 12 and 18 years of age at the time of issue. Assistants licence will be for anyone aged 18 plus.

Responsibilities of Trainers

W44. *(Removed 2015)*
W45. *(Removed 2024)*

W46. [a] All trainers must notify the BHRC Office in writing of the horses in their custody at the commencement of the race season (or within 24 hours of arrival). Public Trainers and Licence to Train must pay the £10 horse in training fee. *(Amended 2022)*
[b] 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)*
[c] 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)*
[d] Where a trainer obtains custody of a horse from an unlicenced premises the horse cannot run for 28 days
PENALTIES
[a] & [b] – fine £25

W47. *(Removed 2024)*

W48. [a] A Trainer shall be responsible at all times for the condition of all horses trained by him. No Trainer shall start a horse or permit a horse in their custody to be started if they know, or if by the exercise of reasonable care, they might have known or have cause to believe, that the horse was not in fit condition to race. *(Amended 2024)*
[b] *(Removed 2024)*

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC

W49. When a Trainer becomes aware that a horse in their custody is not physically fit to race, it is their responsibility to have the horse checked by a veterinarian and have that veterinarian certify that the horse is unfit to race.

W50. *(Removed 2024)*
W51. *(Removed 2024)*
W52. *(Removed 2024)*
W53. *(Removed 2022)*

W54. *(Removed 2024)*

W55. *(Removed 2024)*

W56. *(Removed 2024)*

W57. [a] *(Removed 2024)*
[b] Any Trainer who allows a horse that is not entered to compete on the day to workout wearing the number cloth of another horse will be liable to a fine. *(Addition 2014)*
[c] *(Removed 2024)*

PENALTIES *(Amended 2025)*
[b] Fine £330

W58. Any person holding a Trainer's licence shall immediately notify the Secretary of the BHRC of any infectious or contagiouse in their stables. Failure may result in closure of premises.

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC

W59. The Trainer is responsible to ensure that at each and every grass track meeting, all horses racing, qualifying and/or working out must have shoes with adequate grip i.e. protruding nails. If a horse is not suitably shod then it will not be permitted to run. Any horse racing unshod must be notified to the Stewards at time of declaration. *(Amended 2017/2024)*

PENALTIES
Fine £20 per foot and/or horse not allowed to run

W60. [a]. Where a Trainer is unable to attend to horses under their care on race days, they must

ensure that their nominated licensed Assistant Trainer is present and notify the BHRC/stewards. In exceptional circumstances where neither the Trainer nor Assistant Trainer can be present, horses will only be permitted to race with written permission from the BHRC which will be forwarded to the Chief Steward. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

[b] *(Removed 2024)*

[c] Any person representing a Trainer or Owner must hold a current Assistant's Trainer licence issued or recognised by the BHRC and will be liable for any breach of the rules, disciplinary action or penalties incurred along with the Trainer or Owner who appointed them. *(Amended 2022)*

GENERAL

W61. Any person who participates/collaborates in a race at a meeting held under BHRC rules, without the necessary and appropriate licence, shall be suspended pending investigation from the date of the participation.

PENALTIES
Immediate Suspension, Refer to BHRC

W62. *(Removed 2024)*

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. Policy documents available upon request from BHRC. *(Added 2021) (Amended 2024)*

PART SEVEN - PERMITTED RACES

SECTION X - TYPES OF RACES PERMITTED

X1. In presenting a programme of racing the Race Secretary shall use exclusively the following types of races:
[a] Races for horses under the current national handicap system *(Amended 2012/2021/2024)*
[b] Open Handicap Races
[c] Free For All Races
[d] Open Preferred Handicap Races *(Addition 2011)*
[e] Claiming Races
[f] Classic Races
[g] Match Races
[h] Conditioned Races *(Addition 2022)*
[i] And such other races as may be permitted from time to time by the BHRC.

X2. Claiming Races may be held under such rules and conditions as the Governing Body may from time to time prescribe. See Appendix VIII.

CLASSIC RACES

X3. For the purpose of this rule, Classic Races shall include the National Pacing Derby, the National Pacing Futurity, British Pacing Classic, the major Sire Stakes events and such other events as may be designated as Classic Races by the Stewards. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

X4. All Classic Races will be run under the Rules and conditions laid down and published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*

X5. All Classic races will be administered by the BHRC office. *(Amended 2012)*

X6. *Withdrawn 2012*

X7. Classic Races can only be held on tracks approved by the BHRC as suitable for that race. *(Amended 2024)*

X8. *(Removed 2022)*

X9. Eligibility to Race in Classic Races (3yr old and above): to be eligible to race in any Classic Race a horse must have either successfully completed two qualifiers or successfully completed one qualifier and competed in one race under betting at least five (5) days prior to the event in question.

In the case of two year olds: to be eligible to race in any Classic Race or Stakes Race a horse must have successfully completed two qualifiers at least five (5) days prior to the event in question. See Rule Q7. *(Amended 2022/2024)*

X10. Restrictions on Condition - Any conditions contrary to the provisions of any rule of the BHRC are prohibited.

Conditions Required

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] *(Removed 2022)*
[f] whether the event will have a supplement option. *(Addition 2024)*

X12. Guarantee to Conduct Event - The Track will guarantee to the BHRC that said Classic Race will be raced as advertised in said conditions, unless unanimous consent is obtained from Owners of eligible horses to transfer or change the date thereof, or unless prevented by an act of God or conditions beyond the control of the Track. After inspection of the track no change of venue is permitted unless authorised by the BHRC. *(Amended 2005/2017/2024)*

Dates for nominations payments

X13. The closing date for nominations of all classic races shall be published by the BHRC on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2024)*

X14. *(Removed 2024)*

X15. *(Removed 2024)*

X16. *(Removed 2024)*

X17. *(Removed 2022)*

X18. *(Removed 2022)*

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. *(Amended 2021/2024)*

X20. All other Classic Races – Dates for sustaining payments shall be as published on the BHRC website. *(Amended 2021)*

X21. Payment of Starting Fee - The starting fee, if applicable, shall become due when a horse is declared to race, and shall be payable by the specified date. Once a horse has become properly declared to start, the starting fee shall be forfeited, whether or not the horse starts. Should payment not be made in accordance with the foregoing, the horse may be scratched and the payment shall become a liability to the Owner who shall, together with the horse or horses, be suspended until payment is made in full providing the track notifies the BHRC within thirty (30) days after the date of the race.

X22. Failure to make any payment required by the conditions constitutes an automatic withdrawal from the event.

X23. All fees are non-refundable.

X24. Deductions Prohibited - No deduction may be made from nomination, sustaining, and starting payments or from the advertised purse [added money] for clerical or any other expense, on behalf of the BHRC.

Nominations

X25. All nominations to Classic Races must:
[a] Be made in writing.
[b] Be signed by the Owner or their authorised agent. *(Amended 2024)*
[c] Give name and address of both the bona fide Owner and agent or lessee.
[d] Give name, colour, sex, sire and dam of horse.
[e] Name the event or events to which the horse is to be nominated.

X26. Agreement of Nominator - Every nominator is party to a contract and agreement; and shall be subject to these Rules and Regulations and will submit all disputes and questions arising out of such nomination to the authority and the judgement of the BHRC, whose decision shall be final.

X27. Receipt of Nominations, Nomination and Sustaining Payment - The same must be received not later than the hour of closing, except those made by mail. Those made by mail must bear a postmark placed thereon not later than the hour of closing. The hour of closing shall be midnight of the due date.

List of Nominations:

X28. *Withdrawn 2012*

X29. *Withdrawn 2012*

X30. Eligibility of Horse Not Affected by Sale - Once a nomination has been accepted, the eligibility of the horse nominated shall not be affected due to the fact that it is sold thereafter so long as all remaining fees are paid on time and correct transfer of ownership is completed.

X31. When an Ineligible Horse Races - A nominator is required to guarantee the identity and eligibility of their nominations and declarations and if given incorrectly, they may be fined, and any purse money obtained through an ineligible horse shall be forfeited and redistributed among those justly entitled to same. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES
Refer to BHRC

X32. Minimum Declarations Required to Race - Classic races must be contested if one or more horses are declared to start. In the event only one horse, or only horses in the same interest start, it constitutes a walk over. In the event no declarations are made, the total of nomination and sustaining payments shall be divided equally to the horses remaining eligible after payment of the last sustaining payments, but such distribution shall not be credited as purse winnings, except in the case of the Sires Stakes, where such monies will be carried forward in accordance with Sire Stakes' provisions.

X33. Number of Starters Requiring Race to be Split - Unless lesser numbers are specified in the conditions of the race, in the event more horses are declared to start than allowed in one field, the race will be conducted in heats as governed by the provisions of the following sections.

X34. Except in the case of the Sire Stakes where this provision will not apply, if Starters are split into heats, horses in the same ownership shall be seeded in separate heats where possible. In Sire Stakes Races and in all other circumstances all other starters will be divided by lot.

X35. Number to Qualify for the Final - Unless the conditions provide otherwise, the number of horses allowed to qualify for the final shall not exceed the maximum number permitted by the Track and will be published in the race card.

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)*

[b] Any official violating any provisions of this rule may be fined, suspended or disqualified by the BHRC. *(Amended 2024)*

PENALTIES

Refer to BHRC

X37. Generally, only 'A' Class Drivers are entitled to drive in Classic, BHRC Stakes and Free For All Races, but a 'B' Class Driver may apply to the Licensing Panel for permission to drive a horse in a Classic or Free For All/Free For All-type race. Such application must be made in writing giving seven (7) days' notice. *(Amended 2022)*

PART EIGHT - MEDICATION AND DRUG CONTROL
SECTION Y

Objectives of the Anti-Doping Code

1. The objective and intention of this Code is to protect the integrity of harness horseracing and the welfare of horses participating in harness horseracing by controlling and limiting the use of substances capable of giving a horse an advantage or disadvantage and to protect the horse's welfare and health through controlling the use of substances that might have an adverse impact on either its welfare or its health or both.

2. The Anti-Doping Code places the responsibility and obligation on the Responsible Person to safeguard and protect horses in his care from Prohibited Substances and requires the Responsible Person to ensure that each horse's health and welfare are treated as paramount considerations in all of the Responsible Person's dealings with each horse.

3. By agreeing to be bound by these Rules and this Anti-Doping Code, every Responsible Person accepts that it is his personal duty and obligation to comply with the spirit of the Code and each provision of it.

4. By this Code the BHRC may issue an order excluding any person from all premises approved or licenced by the BHRC including training establishments and racecourses whether or not that person is bound by the Rules of the BHRC including this Code in circumstances where it is in the interests of harness racing to do so. Such an order may be for a fixed or indefinite period. In circumstances where such an order is made the recipient shall be entitled to request a hearing before the Disciplinary Panel of the BHRC by way of appeal of such order. The procedure to be adopted would be that for a Hearing as set out in this Code.

Duties of the Responsible Person

1. To ensure that no Prohibited Substance and/or their Metabolites and/or Markers are present in a horse's system on the day on which it races and/or from the point it arrives at a racecourse whether or not the horse actually runs in a race on that day.

2. Subject to paragraph 1 above, to take all reasonable precautions to ensure that all horses in his care are not exposed to Prohibited Substances other than during the bona fide treatment of horses under the specific direction of a Veterinary Surgeon. The BHRC shall have the power to require any Responsible Person at any time to explain to the BHRC what precautions he has put in place to comply with this requirement.

3. To ensure that no horse is permitted to run in any race when the Responsible Person knows, or by the exercise of reasonable care should or might have known that a horse had or may have received any substance for whatever reason that could result in a positive test for a Prohibited Substance.

4. To fully cooperate with the Testing of the horse.

5. Not to bring or cause to have brought onto a racecourse on a race day any Prohibited Substance or any means of administering such substance to include but not limited to needles, nasal gastric tubes, gastric tubes, ventilators and nebulisers.

6. To be responsible and account for the actions and omissions of any third party who the Responsible Person permits or otherwise allows to be in contact with a horse including in circumstances where the Responsible Person has delegated to the third party the supervision, care and/or control of the horse.

7. To keep and maintain a written record (in an approved format) of each of the following in respect of every horse:
   7.1 Influenza vaccinations
   7.2 All veterinary treatment
   7.3 All medication administered whether by a veterinary surgeon or otherwise
   7.4 All Prohibited Substances administered to a horse as part of legitimate veterinary care.
   7.5 To ensure that the BHRC are notified and associated paperwork is up-to-date for the use of Omeprazole and Ranitidine. *(Added 2025)*

8. To place the protection of horses in his care from Prohibited Substances and to ensure that each horse's health and welfare are treated as paramount considerations in all their dealings with each horse.

9. To fully assist and engage with any investigation undertaken by the BHRC in respect of the horse and/or any other horses including but not limited to ensure that individuals authorised by the BHRC are able to enter premises used by the Responsible Person to either train or stable horses whether or not those premises are owned or controlled by the Responsible Person and to enable examination by a person or persons authorised by the BHRC of any horse in the Care of the Responsible Person. The BHRC shall have the right to authorise the search of such premises and to make inspection of any part of those premises but limited to vehicles, equipment, forage and/or medication.

If a horse registered with the Trainer is not present (without valid reason, i.e., vet, racing etc.) at the registered yard then the 28 day rule will be invoked with the day of the visit being classed as day 1. Evidence will need to be provided to validate any absences. *(Amended 2021, 2025)*

Matters that constitute a breach of the Anti-Doping Code

A Responsible Person will be in breach of the Anti-Doping Code in each of the following circumstances (the "Rules"):

Rule 1. The Responsible Person is strictly liable for any Prohibited Substances found in a Sample taken from a horse for which they are responsible. The strict liability nature of this Rule will apply in respect of all Prohibited Substances found in a Sample taken from a horse whilst at a racecourse whether or not the horse runs. In all other circumstances where a Sample is taken other than on a racecourse this Rule is intended to be applied strictly other than where the Prohibited Substance has been administered to the horse as part of legitimate veterinary care for that horse and was administered under the specific direction of a Veterinary Surgeon, where this is accurately recorded in the Medication Records Book. The presence of a Prohibited Substance and/or Metabolites and/or Markers in a Sample will constitute a breach of the Rules. It is the obligation of the Responsible Person to be familiar with what constitutes a Prohibited Substance. It is not necessary for the BHRC to demonstrate intent, fault, negligence or actual knowledge to establish a breach of this Rule.

Rule 2. Administering or attempting to administer any Prohibited Substance to a horse other than as part of legitimate veterinary treatment of a horse and where it is administered under the specific direction of a veterinary surgeon.

The burden of proof under Rules 1, 2 and 5 that any prohibited substance was administered or attempted to be administered as part of legitimate veterinary treatment under the control and/or direction of a veterinary surgeon shall be on the Responsible Person.

Rule 3. Administering a Prohibited Substance to a horse with the intention to affect the racing performance (either positively or negatively) of that horse in a race and/or in its training regime.

Rule 4. Permitting a horse to run in any race and/or to bring a horse onto a racecourse whether or not it runs in a race if the Responsible Person knows, or if by the exercise of reasonable care, they might have known or have cause to believe, that a horse has or may have received for any reason or has otherwise ingested any substance that remains in its system so that it could result in a positive test for a Prohibited Substance.

Rule 5. In all other circumstances not referred to in rule 4 above failing to take reasonable precautions at all times to ensure that all horses in their care are not exposed to Prohibited Substances at any time other than during bona fide treatment under the specific direction of a Veterinary Surgeon always provided that the burden of proof in demonstrating that a Prohibited Substance was administered as part of a bona fide treatment by a veterinary surgeon lies with the Responsible Person. In the case of a horse being the subject to bona fide treatment by a Veterinary Surgeon the Responsible Person remains obliged to comply with all other elements of the Code including Rules 1-4 and 6-16 of this part of the Code including the obligation to ensure that the Horse is free of Prohibited Substances before entering a racecourse and/or running in a race.

Rule 6. Evading or attempting to evade a Test. At the discretion of the Board of Directors a 6 month suspension of all licences with immediate effect.

Rule 7. Refusing to submit a horse for a Test/or failing to co-operate with a Test and/or attempting to tamper or tampers with a Sample. At the discretion of the Board of Directors a 6 month suspension of all licences with immediate effect.

Rule 8. Bringing onto the racecourse on a race day or causing another person to do so any Prohibited Substance or any means of administering such substance including but not limited to needles, nasal gastric tubes, gastric tubes, ventilators and nebulisers. It is not necessary for the BHRC to demonstrate intent, fault, negligence or actual knowledge to establish a breach of this paragraph.

Rule 9. Being found in possession on a race day of any such equipment or means or administering a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Substance itself is a breach of these rules. It is not necessary for the BHRC to demonstrate intent, fault, negligence or actual knowledge to establish a breach of this paragraph.

Rule 10. The actual or attempted:
10.1 Manipulation of blood or blood components
10.2 Blood transfusion
10.3 Artificial enhancement of a horse's ability to carry, uptake and/or deliver oxygen for the purpose of enhancing a horse's racing performance at any time.

Rule 11. The Responsible Person must account and be responsible for the actions and omissions of any third party who the Responsible Person permits or otherwise allows to be in contact with the horse including in circumstances where the Responsible Person has delegated to the third party the supervision, care and/or control of the horse and will be in breach of these provisions in the event that such a third party acts or behaves in a manner that would have constituted a breach of the Anti-Doping Code had the third party been a Responsible Person. It is not necessary for the BHRC to demonstrate intent, fault, negligence or actual knowledge to establish a breach of this paragraph.

Rule 12. Encouraging, coercing, causing or otherwise assisting others to commit a breach of the Anti-Doping Code.

Rule 13. Trafficking or attempting to Traffic any Prohibited Substance.

Rule 14. Failure to act in a manner that meets and is consistent with the Objectives of the Anti-Doping Code.

Rule 15. Failure to maintain the BHRC official Medication Book and/or to record every treatment given to a horse whether administered by a veterinary surgeon or otherwise as required by paragraph 7 – Duties of the Responsible Person, or where applicable also keep updated the BHRC re the use of listed medications for example (but not limited to) Omeprazole or Ranitidine. *(Amended 2025)*

Rule 16. Failing to engage or otherwise assist the BHRC in respect of any investigation that it undertakes in relations to these rules.

Rule 17. To otherwise fail to comply fully with the duties of the Responsible Person set out in this Code.

Sufficiency of evidence

1. The presence of a Prohibited Substance will be proved if a Prohibited Substance is found in the horse's A sample when the B sample is not analysed for whatever reason. If both A and B samples are analysed, if a Prohibited Substance is found in both the A and B samples the presence of a Prohibited Substance will be proved.

2. Once the presence of a Prohibited Substance is proved in accordance with paragraph 1 above, the burden of proof in explaining how the Prohibited Substance came to be in the horse's Sample rests with the Responsible Person.

3. The standard of proof is the civil standard as it applies to the Law of England and Wales – balance of probabilities.

Testing

1. The BHRC is entitled to Test any horse at any time in connection with harness horseracing and at any location without prior notice whether or not the horse is in training or out of training. The Responsible Person must ensure that they (or their representative) is available within a maximum of 60 minute notice period to witness any testing. Failure to comply may be treated as failure to comply with a test. *(Amended 2025)*

2. Horses will be selected for Testing at the discretion of and on the order of The Stewards or Track Stewards. Selection will be either random or targeted. They are not required to provide any explanation as to why or on what basis any horse is selected to be tested.

3. The BHRC shall be responsible for all Testing conducted within these rules. Samples may be obtained by an Appointed Veterinary Surgeon or an Appointed Testing Officer. Testing shall be undertaken, and samples collected in accordance with the Sample Collection Procedure published on the BHRC's website.

4. Failure to comply with the Sample Collection Procedure which did not cause a Positive Analysis will not lead to a Positive Analysis being invalid. In circumstances where the Responsible Person establishes that a failure to comply with the Sample Collection Procedure may reasonably have caused a Positive Analysis it will be for the BHRC to establish on the balance of probabilities that the failure to comply was not the cause of the Positive Analysis.

5. In the unfortunate circumstances of a horse dying on a track, the Chief Steward must inform the Regional Steward/Integrity Officer. Samples must be collected for analysis. *(Addition 2022)*

6. The Responsible Person cannot refuse access to any BHRC appointed Integrity Testing Officer, or their representative. Failure to comply will be treated under Rule 7, "failing to co-operate with a test". *(Addition 2025)*

Analysis and storage of Samples

1. Samples will be analysed only in laboratories approved by the BHRC.

2. In the event that the Responsible Person elects to have the B sample analysed (with the exception of TCO2)*, they can nominate a different laboratory to the one which undertook the A Sample analysis always provided that the laboratory nominated is approved by the BHRC. On request, the BHRC will provide to a Responsible Person a list of laboratories approved by the BHRC. *(Amended 2025)*

3. The BHRC shall have the right to store Samples indefinitely and to conduct further and other analysis of them at any time. In the event that such further or other analysis produces a positive for a Prohibited Substance or otherwise where any other potential breach of the Code is identified, then the Anti-Doping Code will apply to the Responsible Person in relation to such analysis.

4. All Samples obtained under these Rules and the Anti-Doping Code from a horse are and shall remain the property of the British Harness Racing Club.

5. Laboratories undertaking analysis will be presumed to have conducted such analysis of the Sample and to have put in place a secure chain of custody of the Sample in accordance with laboratory standards and to have properly stored the remaining parts of either the A and/or B Samples having properly re-sealed the Sample.

6. In circumstances where a Responsible Person establishes that a failure to comply with laboratory standards may reasonably have caused a Positive Analysis, it will be for the BHRC to establish on the balance of probabilities that the failure to comply was not the cause of the Positive Analysis. Any failure to comply with laboratory standards which did not cause a Positive Analysis will not lead to a Positive Analysis being invalid.

Notification and analysis of B Sample

1. In the event of a Positive Analysis being reported in respect of the A Sample, the Responsible Person will be notified by the BHRC.

2. A request by the Responsible Person for the B Sample to be analysed must be made within 14 days of the BHRC's notification.

3. Any request by the Responsible Person for the B sample to be analysed must be accompanied by the relevant analysis fee as quoted by the BHRC approved laboratory nominated to undertake the B Sample analysis.

4. This Anti-Doping Code applies to every horse that either runs in races regulated by the BHRC or is being trained to run in such races. Determination of whether or not a horse meets those criteria will be a matter for the BHRC alone. In the event that a Prohibited Substance is found in a Sample taken from a horse which is entered or has run in a race regulated by the BHRC or is being prepared to run in such a race, but which is trained abroad, the BHRC, in addition to applying the Anti-Doping Code, will inform the governing body of the territory where the horse is trained.

5. The BHRC shall have the right at its discretion to order that a horse be re-tested and further Samples taken from the horse in any circumstances where the A Sample of that horse has on analysis resulted in a positive test for a Prohibited Substance.

6. The BHRC shall have the power to require that a horse be quarantined in the BHRC's care, custody and control for a period of no more than 21 days following a Prohibited Substance being identified on analysis of the A Sample.

*TCO2 positive tests will lead to the automatic and immediate B Sample testing (at the same laboratory). In cases where the TCO2 B Sample analysis is found to be below the threshold the A sample shall be discounted and no further action taken. In circumstances where both the TCO2 A & B Samples return a positive analysis the case shall be considered by the Disciplinary Panel. *(Addition 2025)*

Results management and process

1. The BHRC shall have the power to undertake any investigation that it reasonably deems necessary in respect of a positive analysis.

   Those licensed by the BHRC are required by these rules to engage with and assist the BHRC fully in respect of such an investigation. Failure to do so would constitute a breach of these rules.

   Following receipt of a sample analysis that returns a Positive Analysis for a Prohibited Substance and following any preliminary investigation undertaken by the BHRC, the BHRC will notify the Responsible Person in writing of the positive analysis.

2. The Responsible Person shall have a period of 14 days in which to request analysis of the B sample such B sample to be analysed in accordance with the Code. The Responsible Person shall be responsible for the payment of the costs of the B Sample, other than in circumstances where the B samples returns a negative analysis for any prohibited substance, in which case the cost of the B sample shall be met by the BHRC.

3. Following an analysis of the B sample in circumstances when the Responsible Person (or the BHRC, in the case of TCO2 samples) requests that the B sample be analysed, and that analysis is found to be negative for any Prohibited Substance, the findings of the A sample shall be discounted, and no further action will be taken. *(Amended 2025)*

4. In circumstances where (1) the A and B sample both return a positive analysis for a prohibited substance or (2) the Responsible Person does not request that the B sample (see * Notification and analysis of B Sample) be analysed and the A sample has previously returned a positive for a prohibited substance, the matter will fall to be considered by the Disciplinary Panel.*(Amended2025)*

Hearing

1. All hearings in respect of this code will be before the Disciplinary Panel, which shall decide all matters concerning potential breaches of the code.

2. The hearing process will be triggered by the BHRC sending a Notice to the Responsible Person(s) of the allegations of breach that the Disciplinary Panel will be invited to decide, together with a case summary setting out the material aspects of the BHRC's case and the evidence on which it seeks to rely.

3. Within 21 days of receiving the Notice the Responsible Person will provide their response, setting out in clear terms the nature of the Responsible Person's response to the notice, including whether or not the responsible person admits to the breaches alleged, together with a summary of the nature of any defence and the evidence in which the Responsible Person relies on including witness of fact and/or expert evidence. In respect of their preparation of the response, the Responsible Person shall be entitled to request a further 21 days in which to provide that response, such request not to be unreasonably denied by the BHRC. Any further extension of time will require the Responsible Person to make any application to the Disciplinary Panel.

4. The Disciplinary Panel shall determine all procedural matters, such determination may be delegated to the Chairman by the Disciplinary Panel always provided that hearings before the Disciplinary Panels comply with the principles of natural justice.

5. The Disciplinary Panel's focus and aim is to achieve a just and fair outcome for all parties concerned and, in those circumstances, matters of process are of secondary consideration to the primary objective of achieving a fair outcome that is just to all parties.

6. As a consequence, the Disciplinary Panel is not required to follow the strict rules of evidence as they apply to the criminal and/or civil courts and may admit such evidence and accord that evidence such weight as it reasonably considers appropriate.

7. All parties to proceedings before the Disciplinary Panel have the right to be legally represented at their own cost. Any party that chooses to be legally represented, must as soon as reasonably practical, notify the other party and the Disciplinary Tribunal of the identity of the legal representative – together with provision of contact details. Once a party is legally represented, all other parties and the Disciplinary Panel will deal directly with the legal representative.

8. All matters that are put before a Disciplinary Panel shall be and shall remain confidential, subject to the following:

    - The BHRC shall have the right to publish the fact that a Disciplinary Panel enquiry has been convened and to provide details of the breaches of the Code that have been alleged and to identify the Responsible Person.
    - The BHRC may publish at its discretion any written decision of a Disciplinary Panel including its reasons on liability and details of any sanction imposed.
    - The BHRC shall have the right to pass any information obtained during a hearing or an investigation to any law enforcement agency and/or any regulator of harness racing worldwide, in circumstances where the BHRC in its absolute discretion considers that it is appropriate to do so.

9. Whilst the BHRC shall have the right to record the tribunal hearings before the Disciplinary Panel, the deliberations of this Disciplinary Panel, shall remain private and unrecorded. Such deliberations will be held in the absence of all parties and a decision shall be reached by the Disciplinary Panel by way of simple majority.

10. Both the Responsible Person and the BHRC shall be entitled to appeal a decision of the Disciplinary Panel in accordance with the process set out in the BHRC Rules at section U.

1. Threshold substances

Threshold substances as referred to in the definition of Prohibited substances in this Code are listed at paragraph 2 below.

Thresholds can only be adopted for:

- Substances endogenous to the horse
- Substances arising from plants traditionally grazed or harvested as equine feed
- The governing Body shall determine such thresholds from time to time

2. Threshold levels

Threshold substance name	Threshold
Arsenic	0.3 microgram total arsenic per millilitre in urine
Carbon dioxide	36 millimoles available carbon dioxide per litre in plasma
Cobalt	100 micrograms per litre of urine
	25 parts per billion in plasma
Dimethyl sulfoxide	5 micrograms dimethyl sulfoxide per millilitre in urine or 1 microgram dimethyl sulfoxide per millilitre in plasma
Hydrocortisone	1 microgram hydrocortisone per millilitre in urine
Nandrolone	Free and conjugated 5a – strange 3β, 17a – diol to free and conjugated 5 [10] – estrene - 3β, 17a – diol in urine at a ratio of 1
Salicylic acid	750 micrograms salicylic acid per millilitre in urine or 5.5 micrograms salicylic acid per millilitre in plasma
Testosterone	0.02 microgram free and conjugated epitestosterone in urine from fillies and mares at a ratio of 1B
Theobromine	2 micrograms theobromine per millilitre in urine

The governing body will use (unless otherwise stated) the international screening limits/thresholds as listed by the IFHA/other approved organisation.

In all cases when the substances listed above are found on analysis to be in a sample at a level in excess of the threshold set out above, that substance will be deemed to be a Prohibited Substance.

3. TCO2 Sampling

Samples taken may be analysed by the BHRC or a qualified Veterinary Surgeon using a blood gas analyser or may be forwarded to any accredited laboratory for analysis.

3.1 In the event that a blood gas analyser records a TCO2 level above the permitted threshold of 36 millimoles available carbon dioxide per litre in plasma, a minimum of three further blood samples will be required from the horse at 30 minute intervals post-race. The horse will therefore be retained in the custody of the BHRC for a minimum period of two hours after the last race it competes in.

3.2 Any removal of the horse or attempt to remove the horse from the custody of the nominated official will be considered a breach of this Code.

3.3 In the event that a blood gas analyser records TCO2 level above the permitted threshold, all samples retrieved post-race will be forwarded to an accredited laboratory for analysis. If the laboratory records a TCO2 level above the permitted threshold the B Sample will automatically be analysed. In cases where both the A and B samples analysed are above the permitted threshold the costs of that analysis will be borne by the Owner/Trainer. *(Amended 2025)*

4. For any finding of a prohibited substance of endogenous nature, the Governing Body may decide either itself or at the Owner's or Trainer's request to examine the horse further.

5. Prohibited Substances

As recorded in the Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances published by the Association of Racing Commissioners International from time to time and/or substances published by the BHRC on its website or in this Code as threshold substances when found in a Sample to be in excess of the threshold levels or values set out in this Code and/or any other substances published by the BHRC on its website or in this Code as being a substance prohibited by the Code.

5.1 Furosemide (Lasix) is a Prohibited Substance and its presence at any level of concentration in a Sample will be a breach of this provision.

5.2 (a) Regumate is not permitted for use from 1st January 2019. Any laboratory analysis detecting the presence of Regumate after this date will be classed as a positive test. *(Addition 2011/Amended 2018)*

(b) Omeprazole and Ranitidine are permitted as gastric ulcer medication provided that the BHRC are notified in writing by a Veterinary Surgeon of the current prescription, the treatment is recorded in the horse's passport and treatment is withdrawn three (3) clear days prior to competition. Such horses will be recorded on the race card with '(OR)' as a suffix. *(Addition 2016) (Amended 2025)*

Penalties and guidance on penalties

This section sets out the framework on penalties which Disciplinary Panels are required to work to. Whilst this framework is not intended to override the discretion of the Disciplinary Panel, it is intended that the framework is seen as more than mere guidance but as the framework which Disciplinary Panels are expected to operate and that it will only be departed from in exceptional circumstances. In those cases where the Disciplinary Panel does depart from this framework – whether that departure is because an individual case justifies a greater or lesser penalty – then Disciplinary Panels should set out in clear written terms their reasons for departing from the framework.

Guiding principles

1. Any non-suspension penalty will normally only be appropriate in circumstances where the Responsible Person has demonstrated they were entirely not at fault in respect of the matters in which they have been found in breach. In circumstances where a Responsible Person is able to demonstrate that they are not at fault (normally by identifying to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Panel (on the balance of probabilities) the person or persons who were responsible), a Disciplinary Panel is entitled to consider no fault as mitigation and in exceptional cases sufficient mitigation might exist to permit the imposition of a non- suspension penalty. A Responsible Person may only be found to be not at fault in circumstances where they have established to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Panel that they did not know or suspect and could not reasonably have known or suspected – having demonstrated that they acted with the utmost caution – that the events or matters being considered had occurred.

2. Paragraph 1 above is to be considered in the light of this and subsequent paragraphs in this section. The Responsible Person is responsible for all veterinary treatment administered to horses in their care including by any third party. The Responsible Person cannot rely, by way of mitigation, on the fact that treatment has been recommended and/or advised by a treating veterinary surgeon or that the treating veterinary surgeon had advised on medication withdrawal times. Such advice must be considered by a Responsible Person as being for guidance only. A Responsible Person is required and is under a duty to personally manage and make certain that any medication being administered is permitted under this Anti-Doping Code and that sufficient time has elapsed to ensure certainty that any such medication has passed through the horse's system before a horse runs a race. It is the responsibility of the Responsible Person to, for example, have a horse tested prior to running a horse to eliminate any doubt or uncertainty. The fact that a particular medicine or treatment has been prescribed or administered by a veterinary surgeon and/or that a veterinary surgeon has given advice on withdrawal periods does not excuse the Responsible Person from investigating to the fullest extent that the medication does not contain Prohibited Substances and/or that no such Prohibited Substances remain in the horse's system at the time that it runs in a race and/or arrives at a racecourse whether or not it runs in a race.

3. Cases where the existence of a Prohibited Substance in a horse's system risked compromising or actually compromised that horse's welfare should be considered by disciplinary panels as being substantially aggravating in nature and penalties imposed should reflect that.

4. In these guidelines where a penalty range is provided penalty should be imposed within that range subject to paragraph 1 above to reflect any mitigatory or aggravating features. Where the range include an entry point penalty that should be the start point for such deliberations.

5. Where there is no penalty range provided but a single-entry point penalty then that penalty is a fixed penalty and must be imposed.

6. In circumstances where the matter being considered is a second offence (by which it is meant a second offence of any part of the Anti-Doping Code not just the specific breach being considered) the Disciplinary Panel must impose a suspension by way of penalty. Whilst paragraph 1 may be considered when considering the length of any penalty it will not operate to reduce the penalty to a fine.

7. Disciplinary panels may within the confines of this guidance fine a Responsible Person, suspend their licence or licences and/or impose a penalty that is a combination of both fine and suspension.

8. Disciplinary panels may give credit for a timely admission of breach of the Rules in circumstances where the admission is made at the earliest opportunity – such credit should be reflected by no more than a 25% discount in the penalty that would ultimately have been imposed.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON (including Trainers and Owners)				
PENALTY CATEGORY RULE 1 BREACH – ENTRY POINT, FIRST OFFENCE				
CLASS OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE		A	B	Any other penalty class
	Class 1 ENTRY POINT	• 3 Year suspension of all licences and • Fine of £3,000 or 20% of prize money whichever is the greater	• 1 Year suspension of all licences and • Fine of £1,500 or 20% of prize money whichever is the greater	• 6 months suspension of Trainer's licence and • Fine of £500
	Class 1 RANGE	• 2-5 year suspension and • £2000 - £5000 fine	• 7 month – 2 year suspension and • £1000 - £2000 fine	• 3-9 month suspension and • £250 - £750 fine

	1	• Horse to be suspended for one year	• Horse to be suspended for six months	

FOR ANY CLASSIFICATION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

- Disqualification of the horse from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Loss of any prize money from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Payment of all of the BHRC's costs associated with the testing, investigation and hearing, this includes for example (but not limited to) costs of integrity testing, investigation and prosecution which are to be met by the Responsible Person
- Any handicap penalties incurred on the day of sampling (from any race if a positive sample is returned from either pre- or post-race testing) shall be retained on the handicap mark allotted to the horse
- Horse subject to integrity testing by the BHRC (such testing at the BHRC's discretion in terms of scope). Costs of integrity testing to be met by the Responsible Person.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON (including Trainers and Owners)				
PENALTY CATEGORY RULE 1 BREACH – ENTRY POINT, FIRST OFFENCE				
		A	B	Any other penalty class
CLASS OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE	Class 2 ENTRY POINT	• 3 Year suspension of all licences and • Fine of £3,000 or 20% of prize money whichever is the greater	• 1 Year suspension of all licences and • Fine of £1,500 or 20% of prize money whichever is the greater	• 6 months suspension of Trainer's licence and • Fine of £500
	Class 2 RANGE	• 18 month–4 year suspension and • £2000 - £5000 fine	• 6 months–18 month suspension and • £1000 - £2000 fine	• 2-7 month suspension and • £250 - £750 fine

FOR ANY CLASSIFICATION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

- Disqualification of the horse from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Loss of any prize money from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Payment of all of the BHRC's costs associated with the testing, investigation and hearing inc for example but not limited to, costs of integrity testing, investigation and prosecution, which are to be met by the Responsible Person
- Any handicap penalties incurred on the day of sampling (from any race if a positive sample is returned from either pre- or post-race testing) shall be retained on the handicap mark allotted to the horse
- Horse subject to integrity testing by the BHRC (such testing at the BHRC's discretion in terms of scope). Costs of integrity testing to be met by the Responsible Person.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON (including Trainers and Owners)				
PENALTY CATEGORY RULE 1 BREACH – ENTRY POINT, FIRST OFFENCE				
		A	B	Any other penalty class
	Class 3 ENTRY POINT (except cobalt – see below)	• 2 Year suspension of all licences and • Fine of £2,000	• 9 months suspension of all licences and • Fine of £1,000	• 3 months suspension of Trainer's licence and • Fine of £500
	Class 3 RANGE	• 1-3 year suspension and • £1000 - £3000 fine	• 3-12 month suspension and • £500 - £1500 fine	• 0 – 3 month suspension and • £500 - £1000 fine

		Cobalt	FIRST OFFENCE: • 36 month suspension of all licences and £2500 fine SECOND OFFENCE: • 5 year suspension of all licences and £5000 fine	

FOR ANY CLASSIFICATION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

- Disqualification of the horse from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Loss of any prize money from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Payment of all of the BHRC's costs associated with the testing, investigation and hearing including for example (but not limited to), costs of integrity testing, investigation and prosecution which are to be met by the Responsible Person
- Any handicap penalties incurred on the day of sampling (from any race if a positive sample is returned from either pre- or post-race testing) shall be retained on the handicap mark allotted to the horse
- Horse subject to integrity testing by the BHRC (such testing at the BHRC's discretion in terms of scope). Costs of integrity testing to be met by the Responsible Person.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON (including Trainers and Owners)				
PENALTY CATEGORY RULE 1 BREACH – ENTRY POINT, FIRST OFFENCE				
		A	B	Any other penalty class
	Class 4 ENTRY POINT	• 20 month suspension of all licences and • Fine of £2,000	• 7 months suspension of all licences and • Fine of £1,000	• 2 months suspension of Trainer's licence and • Fine of £500
	RANGE	• 9 – 24 month suspension and • £1000 - £3000 fine	• 2 – 12 month suspension and • £500 - £1500 fine	• 0 – 3 month suspension and • £250 - £750 fine

FOR ANY CLASSIFICATION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

- Disqualification of the horse from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Loss of any prize money from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Payment of all of the BHRC's costs associated with the testing, investigation and hearing including for example (but not limited to) costs of integrity testing, investigation and prosecution which are to be met by the Responsible Person
- Any handicap penalties incurred on the day of sampling (from any race if a positive sample is returned from either pre- or post-race testing) shall be retained on the handicap mark allotted to the horse
- Horse subject to integrity testing by the BHRC (such testing at the BHRC's discretion in terms of scope). Costs of integrity testing to be met by the Responsible Person.

ALL OTHER CATEGORIES NOT COVERED ABOVE

RESPONSIBLE PERSON (including Trainers and Owners)				
PENALTY CATEGORY RULE 1 BREACH – ENTRY POINT, FIRST OFFENCE				
		A	B	Any other penalty class
	Class 5 (or any other categories not listed)	• 12 month suspension of all licences and • Fine of £1,000	• 3 months suspension of all licences and • Fine of £500	• 1 months suspension of Trainer's licence and • Fine of £250
	RANGE	• 6-18 month suspension and • £500 - £2000 fine	• 1-6 month suspension and • £250 - £1000 fine	• 0 – 3 month suspension and • £150 - £500 fine

OTHER

	TCO2	FIRST OFFENCE: • 2 year suspension of all licences and • £2000 fine	SECOND OFFENCE: • 4 year suspension of all licences and • £4000 fine
	Cobalt	FIRST OFFENCE: • 36 month suspension of all licences • £2500 fine	SECOND OFFENCE: • 5 year suspension of all licences • £5000 fine
	Furosemide (Lasix)	FIRST OFFENCE: • 9 month suspension of all licences • £1000 fine	SECOND OFFENCE: • 1 ½ year suspension of all licences • £2000 fine
	Anabolic agents and metabolic modulators, including but not limited to: anabolic-androgenic steroids, peptide hormones, selective androgen receptor modulators, beta-2-agonists, REV-ERB agonists, PPAR-agonists HIF-stabilisers	**FIRST OFFENCE:** • Horse suspended from racing for 2 years • Horse not recognised for the purpose of breeding for 2 years • Training licence suspended for period of minimum 2 years • Fine £5000	**SECOND OFFENCE:** • Horse suspended from racing for 2 years • Horse not recognised for the purpose of breeding for 2 years • Training licence suspended for period of minimum 4 years • Fine £10,000

FOR ANY CLASSIFICATION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

- Disqualification of the horse from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Loss of any prize money from race if horse was subject to pre- or post-race testing
- Payment of all of the BHRC's costs associated with the testing, investigation and hearing for example (but not limited to) costs of integrity testing, investigation and prosecution which are to be met by the Responsible Person
- Any handicap penalties incurred on the day of sampling (from any race if a positive sample is returned from either pre- or post-race testing) shall be retained on the handicap mark allotted to the horse
- Horse subject to integrity testing by the BHRC (such testing at the BHRC's discretion in terms of scope). Costs of integrity testing to be met by the Responsible Person.

Set out below is the recommended entry level penalty in respect of other breaches of the Anti-Doping Code:

Rule	Breach	Recommended entry level penalty	Range
2	Attempting to administer a Prohibited Substance to a horse:	• Three month suspension of Trainer's licence	• 2 – 6 month suspension
3	Administering a Prohibited Substance to a horse with the intention of affecting its racing performance, either positively or negatively:	• 5 year suspension of all licences and • £3000 fine	• 4 – 10 year suspension • £3000 - £10,000 fine
4	Planning or permitting a horse to run in a race, where they believe or have cause to believe that the horse could test positive for a prohibited substance:	• 6 month suspension of Trainer's licence	• 3 – 24 month suspension of Trainer's licence
5	Failure to take reasonable precautions to ensure horses are not exposed to Prohibited Substances:	• 6 month suspension of Trainer's licence	• 3 – 12 month suspension of Trainer's licence
6	Evading or attempting to evade a test at any point	• 6 month suspension of all licences with immediate effect* • Horse(s) to be suspended until a negative test result is returned. Costs of integrity testing, investigation/testing/hearing borne by Responsible Person. • FINE £3000 • Disqualification from race, loss of race/prizemoney, retention of handicap mark *At the discretion of the Board	• 6 – 12 month suspension of all licences with immediate effect • Horse(s) suspended until a negative test is returned. Costs of integrity testing/investigation/ hearing borne by Responsible Person • FINE £2000-£5000 • Disqualification from race, loss of race/prizemoney, retention of handicap mark
7	Refusing to allow all approved personnel access to a horse, submit a horse(s) for testing and/or failing to cooperate with the test/attempting to tamper with sample at any point: In respect of both Rule 6 and Rule 7 the following principles shall	• 6 months licence suspension of all licences with immediate effect* • Horse(s) to be suspended until a negative test result is returned. Costs borne by Responsible Person. • Fine £3000	• 6 – 12 month suspension of all licences with immediate effect

	apply:	*At the discretion of the Board	• Horse(s) suspended until a negative test is returned. Costs

	• A request to a Responsible Person to make a horse available for sampling made of the same or differing horses but on separate days (including sequential days) shall be treated as separate breaches of either/or Rule 6 and 7. • The penalty for a second offence is to be at least twice that imposed for a first offence and should be reflected by a suspension at the top end of the penalty range – 12 months	• Disqualification from race, loss of race/prizemoney, retention of handicap mark	borne by Responsible Person • FINE £2000-£5000 • Disqualification from race, loss of race/prizemoney, retention of handicap mark
8	Bringing onto the racecourse any Prohibited Substances or means to administer:	• £1000 fine	• £300 - £2000 fine
9	Found in possession on a race day of any equipment or means of administering a Prohibited Substance:	• £1000 fine	• £300 – £2000 fine
10	Blood doping/blood manipulation/transfusions:	• 3 year suspension of all licences	• 3 – 10 year suspension

11	Responsibility for action of third parties:	• Where actions can be attributed to an identified third party to the satisfaction of a Panel penalty to be discounted by 1/3 from what is would have been if the breach had been committed by the Responsible Person. Third Party to be excluded from the sport of harness racing for a period set at the discretion of the Panel. • Otherwise, penalty the same as if the breach had been committed by the Responsible Person. • In terms of the third party – exclusion order for a period referable to the breach if committed by a Responsible Person.	

12	Encouraging, coercing or causing others to assist to commit a breach:	• Penalty to be applied as if that person had committed the act themselves – act of encouragement to be considered an aggravating feature	
13	Trafficking or attempting to traffic any prohibited substance:	• 6 month suspension of all licences and • £1500 fine	• 6 month – 3 year suspension of all licences and • £1500 - £3000 fine
14	Acting in a manner that does not meet the objectives of the Anti-Doping Code or otherwise fails to fulfil the duties of a Responsible Person:	• £1000 fine	• £1000 - £3000 fine
15a	Failing to submit a Treatment and Medication record book:	• £1000 fine	• £1000 fine
15b	Failing to accurately keep up-to-date BHRC of listed medications or failing to keep up-to-date the Treatment and Medication Record Book	• £350	• £100-£600
16	Failing to engage or otherwise assist the BHRC in respect of any investigation:	• 6 month suspension of all licences	• 6 month – 3 year suspension of all licences

17	To otherwise fail to comply fully with the duties of the Responsible Person set out in this code.	• 6 month suspension of all licences • £500 fine	• 6 month – 3 year suspension of all licences • £500-£1000 fine

PENALTIES

In circumstances where more than one period of suspension if imposed unless otherwise directed in this Code a disciplinary panel may order such periods of suspension to be served either concurrently or consecutively. The disciplinary panel may decide the date on which any period of suspension imposed should begin taking into account for example whether the sport of harness racing is in the off season at the time of any hearing – in which case, a panel may consider it appropriate that a suspension is served during the season.

COSTS

In respect of all breaches and penalties listed above the BHRC shall be entitled to payment of all its costs incurred in the investigation, hearing and any testing undertaken in connection with any stage.

SECOND OFFENCES

Multiple positive tests for the same medication incurred by a trainer prior to delivery of official notification by the governing body MAY be treated as a single violation, two individual first offences, or a first and second offence (subject to circumstances).

In the case of a positive test indicating multiple substances found in a single pre or post-race sample the governing body will treat each substance found as an individual violation.

Example 1

1st offence – Rule 1 category 1A – Suspension 3 years
2nd offence – Rule 1 category 3B – Suspension 9 months
Entry point for 2nd offence 18 months

Example 2

1st offence – Rule 1 category 2B – Suspension 1 year
2nd offence – Rule 1 category 1A – Suspension 3 years
Entry point for 2nd offence – 6 years

Example 3

1st offence – Rule 6 – evading a test – Suspension 6 months
2nd offence – Rule 10 – blood doping – Suspension 3 years
Entry point for Rule 10 offence – 6 years

Example 4

1st offence – Rule 6 – evading a test – Suspension 6 months
2nd offence – Rule 9 – found in possession - £1000 fine
Entry point for Rule 9 offence – £2000 fine

For third offence in all cases, should be a suspension of all licences for either a minimum of 2 years or double 1st offence – whichever is the greater.

Previous breaches of this code will be deemed spent and not considered by the Disciplinary Panel following a period of 5 years after completion of any penalty for that earlier offence, provided that the Responsible Person has held a trainer's licence issued by the BHRC for the period of 5 years.

The starting point should be Entry Point penalty to be double that at first instance and should reflect any mitigatory or aggravating features.

<u>Animal Welfare</u>

The BHRC reserves the right to report any and all animal welfare concerns and panel findings to appropriate enforcement bodies.

Definitions

Administer(ing)	Participating in any way in the use of Prohibited Substances in connection with a horse
Anti-Doping Code	This code
Appointed Testing Officer	As appointed from time to time by the BHRC to obtain Samples from horses
Appointed Veterinary Surgeon	As appointed from time to time by the BHRC
Chairman	The chairman of a disciplinary panel as appointed by the BHRC
Disciplinary Panel	The panel of three people appointed by the BHRC to hear and decide disciplinary hearings
Notice	The notification of a Positive Analysis
Marker(s)	A compound, group of compounds or biological parameter(s) that indicates a Prohibited Substance
Metabolites	Any substance produced by a biotransformation process
Positive Analysis	A certificate of analysis from a laboratory approved by the BHRC which reports, in the case of a Prohibited Substance for which a threshold or cut off level is specified where the concentration of the Prohibited Substance is at or above the threshold or cut off level otherwise where a Prohibited Substance has been identified on analysis of the Sample
Prohibited Substance	As recorded in the Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances published by the Association of Racing Commissioners International from time to time and/or substances published by the BHRC on its website or in this Code as threshold substances when found in a Sample to be in excess of the threshold levels or values set out in this Code and/or any other substances published by the BHRC on its website or in this Code as being a substance prohibited by the Code
Responsible Person	The current or most recent Trainer of the horse unless the Trainer can demonstrate that the horse and responsibility for the horse has been transferred to the Owner. Burden of proving that responsibility of the horse and that the horse has been transferred to the Owner will that of the Trainer.
Rules	The rules of the BHRC incorporating this Anti-Doping Code
Sample	Any biological material taken from a horse including but not limited to body fluid, tissue, excreta, hair or skin scrapings

Sample Collection Procedure	The procedure published on the BHRC's website
Stewards	As published on the BHRC's website from time to time
Suspension	A period of time during which a Responsible Person's licensed privileges are withdrawn and during which time that person is prohibited from acting in the capacity from which they were suspended. Suspensions may start from a time/s prescribed by the disciplinary panel or the Stewards whichever the case may be that they think fit. For the avoidance of doubt the disciplinary panel has the power to order that any period of suspension is served during the harness racing season in circumstances where it would otherwise be served during the off season period
Testing	The process of Sample collection and analysis by or on behalf of the BHRC
Traffic (trafficking)	To deal or trade in Prohibited Substance supply

APPENDIX I (Amended 2025)

BHRC LICENCE AND RACE FEES

Licence Fees - All licences are valid between the 1st January and the 31st December and are renewable annually. This is intended for information only; such fees may be amended from time to time.

Annual Registration Fee (inc Public Liability Insurance)		£60
Owner		£50
Driver	'C' Class	£80
	'B' Class	£100
	'A' Class	£140
Trainer Permit		£30
Licence to Train		£100
Public Trainer		£200
Junior Member		£20
Trainer's Assistant		£20
Assistant		£20
Register Horse in Training (Licence to Train & Public Trainer)		£15
Race Fee (inc. Integrity Fee) - renewable annually:		£80
Annual Visitor Fee for horses entering the Country to Race		£100

APPENDIX II (Amended 2024)

BHRC Flu Vaccination Programme

Primary course intervals:

Primary course intervals are only required for horses that have not yet been administered a primary course or are required to re-start a new primary course.

An initial primary course of three vaccinations must be given (V1, V2 and V3); the second vaccination (V2) must now be administered within 21-60 days of the first vaccination.

Horses must not attend any official BHRC fixture/venue until 7 days after the second vaccination of the primary course.

Vaccine 3 (V3) must then be administered within 120-180 days of the administration of the second vaccination (V2).

Boosters should be administered no more than 6 calendar months apart, according to calendar months rather than a fixed number of days. For example, a horse that is fully vaccinated on 01 January would require a booster on or before 01 July.

	New protocol for 2022 (Primary Course)
V1 (1st Vaccine)	
V2 (2nd Vaccine)	21 – 60 days
V3 (3rd Vaccine)	120-180 days
Booster	Not more than 6 months apart

APPENDIX III (Amended 2024)

STAGBI HORSE REGISTRATION FEES

DEFRA regulations state that every horse must have a passport which must accompany the horse at all times:

a) by 31st December of the year of its birth: or
b) by six months after its birth, whichever is the longer; or
c) if, before then, it leaves the premises on which its dam is normally kept for a continuous period of two weeks or more.

APPENDIX IV (Amended 2025)

This is intended for information only and may be subject to amendment from time to time. Such amendments will be notified in the BHRC Calendar or on the BHRC website.

BHRC SIRES STAKES NOMINATION FEES

Nomination Fee fees:

Yearlings - due by 31st October £100

2 year olds –
1st Sustaining Fee due by 1st February £100
2nd Sustaining Fee due by 1st March £100
3rd Sustaining Fee due by 1st March £100

3 year olds - 1st Sustaining Fee due by 1st February £50
2nd Sustaining Fee due by 1st April £50
Admission Fee (see website for dates) £50

All sustaining fees must be paid each year to keep the horse eligible for future Sires Stakes Races.

Stallions - due by 1st May £500

Any stallion which covers 3 or less mares (as confirmed by STAGBI or IHRA covering certificates) will be eligible for a refund of their nomination fee, however their progeny will remain eligible for the series.

Stallion Supplement Fee - After 1st April and Before 31st December covering year - £1000
Stallions supplemented after 31st December of the covering year - £1000

Supplemented stallions are not eligible for a refund of the supplement fee if covering 3 or less mares.

APPENDIX V (Amended 2022)

BHRC INTEGRITY TESTING REGULATIONS

A BHRC Director, Regional Steward, Deputy Regional Steward, Integrity Officer and/or Chief Track Steward are empowered (in majority) to order an integrity test on any horse competing.

If the above personnel are unavailable or not in agreement, the sample requested should be obtained and the decision whether to analyse the sample made at a later time.

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE ADHERED TO:

Once selected the horse(s) will be escorted by an official (i.e., Track Steward, Integrity Officer etc) to the appointed place for testing.

For urine or blood samples the horse may be washed down provided that the escorting official can be present at all times, in cases of hair samples, the sample should be taken before the horse is washed down. *(Amended 2025)*

The horse's passport must be produced for identification purposes.

The horse must be scanned for a microchip and identified as the horse named in the passport (and Race Card where appropriate) to the satisfaction of the officials and Veterinary Officer present.

The horse(s) will be held at the appointed place for testing until the sample(s) requested (urine, blood, hair, saliva or other such sample) has/have been obtained.

Prior to commencement of the testing procedure and before breaking the seal on the testing kit the appointed veterinary officer should be instructed by the official in the presence of the horse's handler/person responsible to carry out an examination of the horse paying particular attention to both sides of the neck. *(Addition 2017)*

If any abnormality is detected during the examination, then it should be brought to the attention of the handler/person responsible, and any explanation offered should be noted. Photographic evidence of the abnormal area of the horse and the medication page from the passport should be obtained and the handler/person responsible for the horse should be informed that the matter will be referred to the BHRC. *(Addition 2017)*

The appointed Testing Officer or Veterinary Officer or official shall obtain the sample(s) as per the instructions given by the BHRC. Blood samples may only be obtained by the Veterinary Officer. *(Amended 2025)*

Upon completion of the taking of the sample, the Testing Officer/Veterinary Officer as applicable shall complete and endorse all paperwork supplied by the BHRC, including the seal of the sample package. *(Amended 2025)*

The horse's handler/person responsible shall complete and endorse all paperwork supplied, including the seal of the sample package. Such endorsement shall be taken as acknowledgement that they are satisfied with the procedure carried out.

The official shall complete and endorse all paperwork supplied, including the seal of the sample

package. Such endorsement shall be taken as acknowledgement that they are satisfied with the procedure carried out.

The sample will remain in the custody of the BHRC who will be responsible for ensuring that the sample is safely packaged for transfer to the laboratory as soon as is practical.

The BHRC section of the Integrity Testing Form to be forwarded to the BHRC Office as soon as is practical.

Upon receipt of a positive integrity result notification will be provided as follows:

- Chairman informed of positive result only *(Amended 2016)*
- Trainer informed
  - of positive result via telephone (where possible) *(Addition 2016)*
  - of substance in writing only *(Addition 2016)*
- Owner informed of positive result only *(Amended 2016)*
- BHRC Council Members and Responsible Integrity Officer/Regional Steward informed of positive result only *(Amended 2022)*
- Promoter informed of positive result only *(Amended 2016)*
- Governing Body of Trotting (Trot Britain) / IHRA / STAGBI / Breed Organisation or Stud Book (where applicable *(Addition 2022) (Amended 2025)*
- Any other Integrity Team member notified of Positive Test *(Addition 2022)*
- Notice provided on BHRC website stating the fixture, date of test and class of substance

APPENDIX VI (Amended 2013)

BHRC INTEGRITY TESTING FORM

Please return this section to laboratory with the sample

NAME & ADDRESS OF TESTING ORGANISATION	
EVENT/LOCATION	
DATE	

AFFIX BARCODE LABEL HERE

SAMPLE DETAILS

SEX	
AGE (if known)	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	

Signature (Vet/Official): _____ Date: _____

Name (Capitals): _____

Signature (Person Responsible): _____ Date: _____

Name (Capitals): _____

BHRC INTEGRITY TESTING FORM

This section to be retained by the testing organisation

NAME & ADDRESS OF TESTING ORGANISATION	
EVENT/LOCATION	
DATE	

AFFIX BARCODE LABEL HERE

SAMPLE DETAILS

NAME			
SEX		AGE (if known)	
OWNER			
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS			

Signature (Vet/Official): _____ Date: _____

Name (Capitals): _____

Signature (Person Responsible): _____ Date: _____

Name (Capitals): _____

The Steward must ensure that all the guidelines have been followed and upon completion of this form shall forward a copy to the BHRC Office as soon as is practical, keeping the original in their custody.

APPENDIX VII

QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

The qualifying times for Pacers at different tracks are:

(a)	*(Removed 2024)*	
(b)	York	2.08.0 *(Amended 2014/2025)*
(c)	Tir Prince	2.08.0 *(Amended 2014/2025)*
(d)	*(Removed 2024)*	
(e)	Amman Valley	2.08.0 *(Amended 2014/2025)*
(f)	Grass Tracks	2.18.0
(g)	2-year-olds	Qualifying Time for individual tracks plus 4 seconds

In the event of inclement weather causing soft/heavy going on the track, a 'bad weather allowance' may be added to the qualifying time of that track, at the discretion of the stewards after consultation.

APPENDIX VIII

CLAIMING RACES

1 Owner's Consent - No declaration shall be accepted on a horse for a claiming race unless the Owner has provided written authorisation to the Race Secretary prior to the time declarations close. If the horse is owned by more than one party, all parties must sign the authorisation. Any questions relating to the validity of such authorisation shall be referred to the Track Stewards who shall have the authority to disallow a declaration or scratch the horse if they deem the authorisation to be improper.

2 Registration Requirements - BHRC Passports in current ownership, together with the transfer of ownership duly endorsed by all registered Owners, must be filed in the office of the Race Secretary for all horses claimed within a reasonable time after the race from which the horse was claimed.

3 Responsibility for Eligibility - Owners, Trainers and Race Secretaries shall be responsible for the eligibility of horses declared to claiming races. Owners or Trainers making or causing declarations to be made on their behalf, or Race Secretaries accepting declarations in violation of requirements of Section 1 and B of this rule shall be subject to a fine.

4. Claiming Price Specified in Programme - The price for which a horse can be claimed shall be designated in the official programme adjacent to the horse's programme number and a claim shall be for that amount, subject to correction by the Track Stewards if published incorrectly.

5. Horses Eligible to be Claimed –
[a] Subject to the following provision of this section, a horse must be a starter in the event to which it was declared to be eligible to be claimed. For the purposes of this rule, a "starter" means any horse behind the starting gate when the horses are released by the starter at the starting point, unless the Track Stewards determine that a horse did not have a fair start.
[b] A horse that is scratched from a claiming-race shall not be eligible to be claimed.

6. Who May Claim - Persons licensed in the following categories are eligible to claim horses:
[a] Owners or lessees
[b] Drivers
[c] Trainers
[d] A person desirous of becoming an Owner by effecting the claim of a horse, provided that application for membership has been submitted to the BHRC office and a Licence has been issued to such person. An authorised agent may claim on behalf of a person eligible to claim. Any licence holder eligible to claim a horse, or their authorised agent, shall be allowed access to the track in order to affect a claim at the designated place for making claims and to take possession of the horse claimed.

7. Prohibitions on Claims
[a] No person shall claim their own horse or a horse trained or driven by him. Nor shall a person claim a horse which had been claimed within the previous thirty days when they were the Trainer, but not the Owner of the horse.
[b] No person shall offer or enter into an agreement to claim or not to claim or attempt to prevent another person from claiming any horse in a claiming race.
[c] No Owner shall cause their horse to be claimed directly or indirectly for their own account.
[d] No person shall have more than one claim on any one horse in any claiming race.

8. Value - The value of a claiming race shall reflect the true value of the class of horses entered.

9. Claiming Procedure
   [a] A person desirous of making a claim, hereinafter referred to as the claimant, must remit the required amount by certified cheque or bank draft payable to the track, or by cash. The required amount shall include the claiming price plus the registration transfer of Ownership fee.
   [b] The claimant shall provide all information required on the claim form provided by the track.
   [c] The claim form shall be placed by the claimant in an envelope provided for this purpose by the track. The claimant shall seal the envelope and identify on the outside the date, race number, and track name only.
   [d] The envelope shall be delivered to the Race Secretary or a person delegated by him/her for this purpose, within thirty (30) minutes of the starting time of the race from which the claim is being made. That person shall certify on the outside of the envelope the time it was received and whether credit in the required amount has been established.
   [e] The horse being claimed will have to pass a full Veterinary examination and shall provide a dope test that must be clear, after the Vet has been notified that the claim has been placed on the horse. The Vet's examination fee will be paid by the claimant. If the horse being claimed fails the test, the fee will be paid by the Seller.
   [f] It shall be the responsibility of the Race Secretary to ensure that all such claim envelopes are delivered unopened or otherwise undisturbed to the Track Stewards prior to the race from which the claim is being made.
   [g] The Track Stewards shall disallow any claim made on a form which is incomplete or improperly completed, or in a manner which fails to comply with the requirements of this rule.

10. No Withdrawal of Claim - Once a claim has been properly made, it cannot be withdrawn.

11. Multiple Claims on Same Horse - If more than one valid claim is made for the same horse, title to the horse shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Track Stewards, and all unsuccessful claims involved in the decision by lot shall, at that time become null and void, notwithstanding any future disposition of such claim.

12. Notification Claim - Upon determining that a claim is valid, the Track Stewards shall forthwith notify the Paddock Steward of the name of the horse claimed, the name of the claimant, and the name of the person to whom the horse is to be delivered. Also, the Track Stewards shall cause a public announcement to be made.

13. Delivery of Claimed Horse - A horse claimed shall be delivered immediately by the original Owner or their Trainer, to the successful claimant upon authorisation of the Track Stewards. The horse's halter must accompany the horse. Altering or removing the horse's shoes will be considered a violation of this rule.

14. Refusal to Deliver Claimed Horse - Any person who refuses to deliver a horse legally claimed out of a claiming race, shall be suspended together with the horse until delivery is made.

15. Claim Ruled Invalid - When the Track Stewards rule that a claim is invalid:
   [a] The horse involved shall be returned to the Owner of the same at the time of the race from which it was claimed.
   [b] The amount of the claiming price shall be repaid to the claimant.
   [c] Any purse monies earned between the date of the claim and the date on which the claim is ruled invalid shall be the property of the claimant; and
   [d] The claimant shall be responsible for any costs incurred through the care, training, or racing of the horse while it was in their possession.

16. No Return of Claimed Horse - A claimed horse shall not be eligible to start in any race in the name or interest of the original Owner for thirty [30] days, unless reclaimed out of another claiming race. Nor shall such horse remain in, or be returned to the same stable, or care, or management of the first Owner or Trainer for the same period of thirty [30] days, unless reclaimed out of another claiming race

by the previous Owner.

17. Mares and Fillies in Foal - If a claimant determines within forty-eight (48) hours that a claimed filly or mare is in foal, they may, at their option, return the horse to the original Owner and the claim may be ruled as invalid.

18. Payment of Claiming Price - The claiming price shall be paid to the Owner only when authorised by the Track Stewards. Such authorisation shall not be given until the Track Stewards are satisfied that the claim is valid, the requirements of a Vet's examination and a test for any banned substance, have been fulfilled, and the registration certificate for the claimed horse is present, or available to affect the necessary transfer of ownership.

19. Penalties - any person violating any of the provisions of this rule, shall be fined, suspended or expelled.

APPENDIX IX

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED AT TRACK STEWARD'S ENQUIRIES

The Track Stewards must first of all fully assess the incident or complaint.

The Track Stewards must first of all fully assess the incident or complaint.
If the matter is one that the Track Steward/s, or a BHRC Director/s, or Regional/Deputy Regional Steward/s, has brought to their attention then they must ensure that they have cause to investigate the matter and what rules apply to the incident.
On convening a Steward's Enquiry, the Chief Steward shall act as chairperson with the Regional Steward/Deputy Regional Steward/Director in attendance. The person acting as Regional Steward may take no part in decision-making, a further two Track Stewards shall be appointed as the Track Steward's Enquiry Panel.
The person acting as Regional Steward shall be responsible for informing all parties as to their rights during the enquiry and to advise both the panel and persons appearing before the panel.
A person shall be responsible for keeping a record of all matters. This may be done by the making of contemporaneous notes or, if available, the enquiry shall be recorded on a sound recording device (written notes/recordings shall be sent to the BHRC Office within 48 hrs). If the meeting is being recorded all parties must be informed that it is being recorded and consent.
From the outset of the enquiry all parties shall be present at all times during which any complaints or alleged breaches of the rules shall be made common to all persons involved. The reason for this is so that no allegations shall be made against a person that is not present to hear such allegations, they must be present in order that they may defend themselves with regard to any such allegations.
Any individual shall be entitled to have present a person to act as an independent witness to any statements made but not take part in the meeting.
Any person aged under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
Any persons suspected of a breach of the BHRC rules must be informed of the rule applicable and the nature of the offence for which they may be questioned. [A copy of the BHRC rulebook shall be available to all parties during an enquiry].
Having heard from all parties the Steward's area or room shall be cleared of all persons excepting the panel and the person acting as Regional Steward, who shall remain to advise as to the rules and penalties that may be applied.
The panel shall consider the statements and any evidence submitted and must make a decision as to whether they are guilty of a breach of the BHRC rules or not [this must be a clear decision either guilty or not guilty]. The decision made can be that of all of the panel or if they cannot agree, then the decision of the majority shall be the decision made.
On reaching a decision then the persons concerned shall be called back to hear the decision of the track stewards, should any person be found guilty of breaking the BHRC rules then the chairperson shall inform them of the penalty that may be imposed.
The panel will then be asked to consider what penalties shall be imposed in accordance with the penalties laid down in the BHRC rulebook The chairperson should then inform the parties of any penalties applied, also they should inform the parties of their rights as to any appeal they may or not be entitled to make and how to proceed should they wish to.
A short report on the BHRC enquiry form should be forwarded to the BHRC Office by 10am on the morning next following racing, followed by a full report within 48hrs.

APPENDIX X

STANDARD PENALTIES

Notes
a) Removed 2025
b) Removed 2024
c) Track Stewards have the power to issue fines and suspensions in accordance with the penalties set out in the rule book.
d) Where three amounts given, penalty dependant on severity, experience of driver
e) All penalties at Steward's discretion (majority vote)

DEMERIT POINTS

On accruing 12 Demerit Points or where the stewards feel there has been a serious breach of the rules the driver's licence will be suspended for 7 (seven) consecutive clear days (for first occurrence), 14 (fourteen) consecutive clear days for a second accumulation of 12 (twelve) points and 28 (twenty-eight) consecutive clear days should a third offence occur.

Demerit points are zeroed at the end of every season, except where a person receives demerit points one month before the end of the season – these are then carried forward to the next season

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility can be taken for errors or omissions.

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Restart	M30
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