

PART 3 - THE START

Conduct

31. General duty to secure a prompt start

31. Each Trainer, Rider and Racecourse Managing Executive must take reasonable steps to ensure that races start on time and that all procedures set out in these Rules for that purpose are complied with.

32. Method of start

32.1 Subject to Paragraph 32.3, all flat races must be started

32.1.1 from starting stalls of a design approved by the Authority, or

32.1.2 if starting stalls are not available, by a starting gate approved by the Authority.

32.2 Subject to Paragraph 32.3, all steeple chases, hurdle races and National Hunt Flat Races must be started

32.2.1 by a starting gate approved by the Authority, or

32.2.2 with special permission from the Authority, by flag.

32.3 In a case of emergency, any race may be started with a flag if

32.3.1 the Starter decides to do so, or

32.3.2 the permission of the Stewards is obtained.

32.4 In loading horses for races, the Starter may call upon additional assistance from other handlers if they are available and he considers it appropriate to do so.

32.5 Schedule 5 makes further provision about the use of starting stalls, starting gates and starting flags.

33. Getting to the start

33.1 A horse may not be led on the course on the way to the start except in a Parade or with the permission of the Stewards.

33.2 No horse will be permitted to go to the start late unless the owner or Trainer first obtains the permission of the Stewards.

33.3 The Stewards will only give permission for a horse to proceed to the start late in exceptional circumstances (such as where a horse needs to be re-plated) and not for any behavioural problems.

33.4 When a horse is unavoidably delayed in the Parade Ring (or, in the case of an All Weather Track fixture, in the place designated for mounting) and cannot leave to go to the start in company with the other horses, those horses which have not already left for the start must remain in the Parade Ring until the horse concerned is ready to go to the start with them.

33.5 Every horse must be ridden to the start.

33.6 No preliminary jump is allowed before any race.

34. General requirements at the start

34.1 A Rider comes within the control of the Starter once he arrives at the start.

34.2 No Person will be allowed on the course at the start without the permission of the Starter.

34.3 No Person other than a Rider may use a whip on a horse, or otherwise strike it in any way, while it is under the control of the Starter before and during the start of any race.

34.4 The Starter must report to the Stewards any case where he considers that a horse has been improperly saddled.

34.5 Schedule 5 Part 4 places further restrictions on Trainers and their representatives at the start.

35. Power of Starter to withdraw horses

35.1 It is the responsibility of the Starter to take a final decision as to whether or not any horse should run.

35.2 The Starter must immediately notify the Clerk of the Scales that a horse is withdrawn if he considers that, for any reason, the horse is or will be unable to start at the appointed time or when the Starter is ready to start the race.

35.3 In making a decision on withdrawal, the Starter must have regard to any preference which, in accordance with Rules (C)36.2 and (C)36.3 (other requirements affecting equine welfare), the Trainer of the horse has

indicated on the list of declared runners given to the Starter.

35.4 Where

35.4.1 one of the plates is removed from a horse at the start or is shed on the way to, or at, the start, and

35.4.2 a farrier is present at the start and replating is possible,

the Starter may approve replating if he considers that there is sufficient time for replating to take place or that the race can be delayed while the horse is replated, but if loading into the stalls has commenced for a flat race, approval will be given only in exceptional circumstances.

36. The start

36.1 Every horse in a race must be at the starting post ready to start at the appointed time.

36.2 The horses may only be started by the official Starter or his authorised substitute.

36.3 Every flat racecourse will be classified in Schedule 7 as a left handed course or a right handed course.

36.4 For any flat race, except those programmed to be started from a starting gate

36.4.1 the horses must take their place at the start in the order drawn for them,

36.4.2 the Rider who has drawn No 1 must always, when looking at the starting stalls from the rear, be placed

36.4.2.1 in the first stall used on the left of the starting stalls on a left handed course, and

36.4.2.2 in the first stall used on the right of the starting stalls on a right handed course.

36.4.3 the other Riders must take their places in consecutive numbers from the Rider drawn No 1.

36.4.4 in the event of a non runner and where time permits, the stalls number for that horse will be removed from the sequence. The remaining runners will be loaded in such a way that no numbered stall is left vacant, with the stalls numbering amended accordingly.

36.5 Each horse shall be considered as having come under Starter's Orders when the Starter has carried out such action as to cause the race to be declared Off in accordance with Rule 37.2.

36.6 Each horse which has come under Starter's Orders shall be considered as having started the race apart from a horse which is for any reason withdrawn by the Starter or the Stewards.

37. Timing of the start

37.1 The time recorded for the start of a race by either Satellite Information Services or Amalgamated Racing shall be regarded as the official time of the start.

37.2 A race shall be declared Off when

37.2.1 in a race started from starting stalls, the Starter has released the starting stalls;

37.2.2 in a race started from a starting gate, the Starter has dropped his flag and released the starting gate;

37.2.3 in a race started by a flag, the Starter has dropped his flag.

37.3 But Paragraph 37.2 does not apply where the Starter declares a false start under Rule 38.

False starts

38. False starts

38.1 The Starter may declare a false start

38.1.1 if he considers that through any faulty action of a starting gate or a starting stall a fair start has not been effected,

38.1.2 when a horse has broken away before the race has been declared Off, or

38.1.3 if, for safety reasons, the Starter releases the tape of the starting gate but does not intend to start the race.

38.2 Where a false start has been declared the Starter will order the Riders to return to the starting post by using the Recall Procedures.

38.3 The Starter's decision on all matters covered by Paragraphs 38.1 to 38.2 is final.

38.4 Where the Recall Procedures are initiated without his orders, the Starter must nevertheless declare it a false start.

39. Effect of Recall Procedures

39.1 A race is void unless at least one Rider returns to the Starter after the Recall Procedures have been initiated.

39.2 Where

39.2.1 only one Rider returns, and

39.2.2 he can satisfy the Starter that he obeyed the Recall Procedures,

his horse shall be regarded as having walked over for the race.

39.3 Where more than one Rider returns, the race must be started again as soon as the course is clear.

39.4 The Starter's decision on all matters covered by Paragraphs 39.1 to 39.3 is final.

39.5 Any horse which, following the initiation of the Recall Procedures

39.5.1 in a flat race, completes the course, or

39.5.2 in a steeple chase, hurdle race or National Hunt Flat Race, either completes a circuit of the course, unseats its rider other than at the start, or falls,

shall be regarded as not having obeyed the Recall Procedures and shall be withdrawn by the Starter.

39.6 The Rider of any horse to which Paragraph 39.5 applies shall be taken to have contravened a requirement imposed on him by this Rule.

40. Failure of the Recall Procedures

40.1 The race is void if the Starter declares a false start but there is a failure of the Recall Procedures.

40.2 Paragraph 40.1 does not apply where all the horses pull up before

40.2.1 completing the course in a flat race, or

40.2.2 completing a circuit of the course in a steeple chase, hurdle race or National Hunt Flat Race.

40.3 For the purposes of Paragraph 40.2.2, any horse which falls before completing a circuit of the course in a steeple chase, hurdle race or National Hunt Flat Race

40.3.1 shall be regarded as having pulled up and returned to the Starter, and

40.3.2 must be withdrawn by the Starter.

Starter's reports

41. Requirement to make reports to Stewards

41.1 The Starter must report to the Stewards on each occasion when the Starter

41.1.1 dispensed with the starting stalls or starting gate, or

41.1.2 withdrew a horse in exercise of his powers under Rule 35.2,

specifying the Starter's reasons, the time the race was started and the cause of, and any Person responsible for, causing any delay.

41.2 Where the race is started from starting stalls, the Starter must report to the Stewards any horse which

41.2.1 failed to enter the stalls,

41.2.2 unnecessarily delayed a start,

41.2.3 behaved in an unruly manner unacceptable to the Starter, or

41.2.4 behaved in a manner which resulted in three Criteria Failures being issued under Rule 43.

41.3 Any report made by the Starter under this Rule will be sent to The Racing Calendar Office.

42. Power to report misconduct of rider, trainer or his representative

42.1 The Starter may report to the Stewards any Rider, Trainer or his representative whom the Starter considers is guilty of misconduct at the start.

42.2 Misconduct by the Rider includes, in particular

42.2.1 attempting to line up or taking a position for the start before being instructed to do so by the Starter;

42.2.2 causing or allowing a horse in a race started from a starting gate to be in contact in any way with the starting tape or causing or allowing his head to be on or over the starting tape.

42.3 But no report will be made in respect of conduct falling within Paragraph 42.2.2 where the Starter considers that the circumstances of the conduct were beyond the Rider's control.

42.4 Misconduct by a Trainer or his representative includes, in particular, a failure to comply with the protocol set out in Schedule 5 Part 4 and may result in the Stewards taking Disciplinary Action.

43. Power to issue warnings to trainers (criteria failures)

43.1 The Starter will, in the circumstances set out in Paragraph 43.2, issue the Trainer of a horse with a warning relating to the horse's behaviour (referred to in this Manual as a Criteria Failure).

43.2 The circumstance for issue of a Criteria Failure are

43.2.1 where the horse is unruly in the stalls but the behaviour does not warrant a report to the Stewards under Rule 41,

43.2.2 where the horse is unruly outside the stalls but the behaviour does not warrant a report to the Stewards under Rule 41, or

43.2.3 where a late load is requested by the Trainer for any horse other than one to which Paragraph 43.3 or Schedule 5 Paragraph 4.5.2 applies.

43.3 A horse foaled on and after 1st January 2000 may be recorded as a horse which will not in future incur a Criteria Failure when a late load is requested by the Trainer if the horse

43.3.1 is recognised as one which

43.3.1.1 has been properly schooled, but

43.3.1.2 will always need special handling under race conditions because of its temperament, and

43.3.2 has twice been the subject of a Starter's report under Rule 41.2 and has subsequently passed the necessary stalls tests.

43.4 If a horse records three Criteria Failures within a 12 month rolling period, the Starter must report the horse to the Stewards for a stalls test.

43.5 Examples of unruly behaviour in the stalls include

43.5.1 panicking in the stalls or trying to go under the front gate;

43.5.2 rearing in the stalls;

43.5.3 kicking out in the stalls;

43.5.4 lying or sitting down in the stalls.

43.6 Examples of unruly behaviour outside the stalls include

43.6.1 needing four pushers with or without a blindfold;

43.6.2 having to be blindfolded and is very reluctant;

43.6.3 kicking out;

43.6.4 being generally unruly at the start.

44. Effect of a Starter's report

44.1 This Rule applies where a horse is reported to the Stewards under Rule 41.2.

44.2 The horse may not start for a race from stalls until a satisfactory certificate has been obtained in respect of the horse.

44.3 For the purposes of Paragraph 44.2, the following are satisfactory certificates

44.3.1 a report to the Racing Calendar Office by a Starter that the horse has passed a stalls test conducted in accordance with Schedule (C)5,

44.3.2 if the horse which was trained outside Great Britain at the time that it was reported, a certificate issued by the Racing Authority of the country in which the horse is or has been trained, or

44.3.3 if the horse was trained in Great Britain at the time it was reported and is subsequently trained abroad, a certificate issued by the Racing Authority of the country in which the horse is trained.

44.4 A horse for which a satisfactory certificate has been obtained

44.4.1 may not run in a race from stalls on the day on which the certificate is obtained, but

44.4.2 when it does run in a race, unless the satisfactory certificate has been granted pursuant to Paragraph 44.3.1, the Trainer must ensure that the certificate is brought to the meeting and is available for inspection if required.

44.5 If, after a horse has been reported under Rule 41.2, it is subsequently reported to the Authority, the horse may not undergo a stalls test until the Authority has considered that report.

44.6 The Authority may at its discretion prevent any horse reported to them from undergoing a stalls test.