



"IN THE SADDLE"

A Guide around the British Horseracing Authority Regulations 2014/15 for those Riding in Point-to-Points

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This advisory document has been produced by the British Horseracing Authority and is designed to help Point-to-Point riders understand how the Regulations for Point-to-Point Steeple Chases affect them. The document does not attempt to offer advice on fitness preparation or riding technique etc. The aide-memoire looks at the period leading up to a meeting as well as the raceday itself. Since all riders agree to be bound by the Regulations they are strongly advised to also consult: -

- Part 5, Regulations 50-56, Appendices C-H, N, O, S, V and AA of the Regulations;
- 'General Conditions' Para 6 and the 'Notice to Owners and Riders' which can be found in the Preface to the National Point-to-Point & Hunter Chase Planner.

1.2 The aim of the Regulations is to maximise fairness, consistency and integrity at every Point-to-Point fixture and, more importantly, to promote the welfare of both horse and rider.

NB You should have received a copy of the Point-to-Point Regulations. If you require additional copies they are available from: Lucy Price, Point-to-Point Executive, The British Horseracing Authority, 75 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS, 0207 152 0049.

2. PRE-SEASON

AM I ELIGIBLE TO RIDE? [Regulations 50 (i) and 53]

2.1 You cannot ride in Point-to-Points if:

- you are under the age of 16;
- you have ever held a professional rider's licence issued under the Rules of any recognised Turf Authority except:
 - where you have held one or more of the licences listed below, and had not ridden more than 25 winners whilst holding such a licence:
 - a. An Apprentice Jockey's Licence issued under Rules of Racing;
 - b. A Conditional Jockey's Licence issued under the Rules of Racing;
 - c. A Steeplechase and Hurdle race Jockey's Licence issued prior to July 1978;
- you have ever been paid directly or indirectly for riding in a race, with the exception of expenses approved by the British Horseracing Authority as set out in Appendix A to the Regulations, and any trophy advertised in the conditions of any race. Approved expenses include:
 - a. Expenses apportioned by FEGENTRI for their Championship races under Rules;
 - b. Reasonable expenses to overseas riders paid by sponsors of Amateur or Club races as long as they are acceptable to the British Horseracing Authority and are included in the race conditions;
 - c. Assisted or free travel and lodgings provided for Amateur riders taking part in approved invitation races abroad.

- you have been prohibited from participating in Point-to-Point Steeple Chases by the British Horseracing Authority .
- you are an amateur rider, whose permit has been suspended by the British Horseracing Authority or by any other Recognised Racing Authority.
- you are an amateur rider who has been suspended from riding at a Licensed Racecourse under Rule (A) 61 of the Rules of Racing.

2.2 Assuming you do not fall into any of the above categories you can take the first step towards riding in Point-to-Points and apply for a Riders Qualification Certificate (RQC).

3. **HOW DO I GET MY RQC? [Regulation 50 (ii)]**

3.1 You must have an RQC for the current year before you can ride in Point-to-Points. Your RQC is proof that you are qualified to ride in Point-to-Points and that you have paid the premium of the mandatory Point-to-Point Riders Insurance Scheme. RQC application forms can be downloaded from the national Point-to-Point website (www.pointtopoint.co.uk) or requested directly from the Point-to-Point Authority (info@p2pa.co.uk). A nominated signatory, e.g. Hunt Secretary must confirm that the applicant is: a Master, Member, Subscriber, Farmer; or

- a son, daughter or spouse of a Master, Member, Subscriber, Farmer; or
- a person who has paid the cap for at least one days hunting to the Hunt concerned.

3.2 Subject to the above requirements you may complete the remainder of the application form as indicated. You are required to:-

- sign an acknowledgement that you understand Point-to-Point riding is a high-risk sport, and that you believe yourself to be a competent rider who has schooled over fences and is capable of riding in Point-to-Point Steeple Chases.
- complete a Declaration of Health Form; and
- send payment of either **£199.26** (for a "full Certificate" which allows you to **ride throughout the season in all races** for which you are eligible) or **£54.04** which allows you to **ride in one Hunt Members Race only**. Payment may be in the form of a personal cheque, bankers draft or building society cheque. **CASH OR POSTAL ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

3.3 Please note:-

- If you are under 18 years of age you will need to provide parental/guardian consent with your application.
- If you fall into any of the following categories, you will need to make an appointment with your own GP to complete a four-page Medical Report Form (supplied by the British Horseracing Authority). You will then need to return this and any other confidential medical documentation (ie Health Declaration) to the **Point-to-Point Authority** before any RQC can be issued.

Categories of Riders who will need their GP to complete the Medical Report Form:

1. All first time applicants.
2. Applicants who are aged:
 - 25}
 - 30} On 25th November 2014 or who will reach this age
 - 35} before 30th June 2015.
 - 40}
 - 45}
 - 50}
3. Applicants who, on 25th November 2014, are aged 55 or over – or who reach 55 before 30th June 2014 – will require an annual 4 page medical.
4. Applicants who, on 25th November 2014, are aged 60 or over – or who reach 60 before 30th June 2014 – will require an annual 4 page medical and the results of a recent exercise stress test.

Please note that riders who have undergone a medical as part of the process for obtaining a current Amateur Rider's Permit will **NOT** need to undergo an additional medical to receive a Point-to-Point Riders Qualification Certificate.

If you will be over 60 years of age at any stage during the current season you must contact Helen Pavitt in the British Horseracing Authority Medical Department (0207 152 0138) immediately.

- 3.4 You will need to return ALL paperwork – Application Form, Declaration of Health, Medical Report Form (if required), and payment – to the Point to Point Authority.

- **YOU MUST ALLOW AT LEAST 3 WEEKS FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO BE PROCESSED.**

- 3.5 The money you have paid for your RQC is your premium for joining the compulsory insurance scheme that has been agreed with the Point-to-Point Owners and Riders Association (PPORA). (A small administrative fee is included in the cost). You will therefore be eligible for compensation should you have an accident from weigh-out to weigh-in during Point-to-Point races for which you hold an RQC.
- 3.6 As long as the BHA Chief Medical Adviser / PPA Senior Medical Doctor is happy with the Declaration of Health Form you have completed and the Medical Report Form your GP has completed (if required), your RQC and a Medical Record Book (MRB) will be sent to you within 3 weeks. The MRB is a "one-off" document which belongs to the British Horseracing Authority and which you will hold until it is full or you have finished your riding career. Only MRBs that have been issued by the British Horseracing Authority, the Horseracing Regulatory Authority, the Irish Turf Club or the Stewards of the Jockey Club if issued before 1st January 2005 are acceptable in Point-to-Points. Details of all your injuries and any medical suspensions will be written in your MRB by Point-to-Point Doctors or Racecourse Medical Officers (if you ride under Rules as an Amateur). You will also be sent details of your Insurance cover (and who to contact should you wish to make a claim) with your RQC/MRB.

Prospective applicants with existing medical conditions or who are currently taking medication should apply to the British Horseracing Authority's Chief Medical Adviser, for information and advice by ringing 0207 152 0138.

- 3.7 If the Chief Medical Adviser needs further information on illnesses or injuries you may have suffered he will contact your GP. This may delay the issuing of an RQC. In certain cases the Chief Medical Adviser will refuse an RQC application. If this happens to you, you can appeal against the decision (Regulation 2 (v)) through the Licensing Committee.

- 3.8 Once you receive your RQC and MRB you have the necessary documentation to ride in Point-to-Points.

APPROACHING RACEDAY

4. WHICH RACES CAN I RIDE IN? [Regulation 51]

4.1 If you have a "full" RQC you can ride in the following races:-

- Hunt Members races (up to a maximum of 3 – unless you are also a novice rider in which case you may ride in up to 4 such races in any season) as long as you are a Master, Member, Subscriber, Farmer (or their spouse or child) of the Hunt or Hunts concerned; or have paid to that Hunt the cap for one or more days hunting.

N.B. i) if the conditions of a Hunt Members race state "To be ridden by those qualified to enter" you **cannot ride if you have paid only the cap to the Hunt** because to qualify to enter a horse you have to be a Member, Master, Farmer or Subscriber of that Hunt.

ii) if you are qualified to ride in a Hunt Members race for which your RQC does not state your eligibility (e.g. you are a Subscriber of Hunt A and Hunt B, you want to ride in the Hunt Members race of Hunt B, but your RQC was signed by the Secretary of Hunt A), you need to get the Hunt Secretary of Hunt B to fill in the relevant section of an RQC application form confirming that you are eligible. You must then take this to the meeting on raceday and hand it to the Declarations Clerk.

- Open, Intermediate, Confined, Restricted and Maiden races.
- Club, Association or Society races providing you are a member of the organisation concerned, unless otherwise stated in the race conditions, and are eligible under the conditions. Examples include: Point-to-Point Owners and Riders Association races or South Midlands Area Club races. Remember, you must be a member at the time of declarations to be eligible to ride in such races. Always carry proof of your membership

N.B A growing number of Club races in particular are now for Novice Riders only. A Novice Rider is defined as:

*"a person who, **up to and including the 25th November 2014**, has ridden a total of no more than three winners under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority or in any Point-to-Point Steeple Chases or in Arabian Horse Races".*

4.2 If you have a "Hunt Members only" RQC you can only ride in **ONE** Hunt Members race for which the RQC states you are eligible. If a Hunt has two meetings and holds a Hunt Members race on both occasions you **cannot** ride in both races with a single "Hunt Members only" RQC. If you have ridden in your Hunt members' only race and you wish to ride again in another Point-to-Point race, you can upgrade your RQC by sending the difference between the cost of a full and members RQC to the Point-to-Point Authority.

5. IS MY RIDING EQUIPMENT ACCEPTABLE? [Appendices C,E,G,H,O of the Regulations]

5.1 You should ensure that the riding equipment you intend to use complies with the Regulations for Point-to-Point Steeple Chases.

5.2 You must ride in a **SKULL CAP** and it must comply as follows:-

- All skull caps shall (Effective 1 April 2015):-
 - meet **(BS) EN 1384: 2012, CSN EN 14572: 2005, BS EN 14572: 2005, PAS 015: 2011 or CSN EN 1384: 2012.**;
 - have a CE marking;
 - be in serviceable condition;
- Skull caps shall not have a chin cup, cradle or draw lace.
- The chin strap must pass under the jaw and be attached to the harness by a quick release buckle. Metal hooks are expressly forbidden.
- The skull cap must be of the correct size for the individual rider, the harness must be correctly adjusted and the chin strap fastened at all times when mounted on a horse.
- As skull caps are designed for "single impact only" any skull cap which has been subjected to a severe impact or has been worn by a rider suffering from concussion should not be regarded as serviceable and should be replaced.
- If your Skull Cap does not comply you are liable to be fined **£50** upwards and will not be permitted to ride until you have one, which meets the requirements.

NB For further details of approved skull caps please contact the Chief Medical Adviser on 0207 152 0138

5.3 Your **WHIP** must comply as follows:

- A maximum length, including the flap, of 68 centimetres;
- A minimum diameter of 1cm.
- The only additional feature that may be attached to the whip is a flap. If a flap is attached it must fall within the following specifications:-
 - i) A maximum length of flap from the end of shaft of 10cms;
 - ii) A maximum width of flap of 4cms, with a minimum of 2cms;
 - iii) The flap from the end of the shaft must not contain any reinforcements or additions;
 - iv) There shall be no binding within 23cms of the end of the flap;
 - v) The contact area of the shaft must be smooth, with no protrusion or raised surface, and covered by shock absorbing material throughout its circumference such that it gives a compression factor of at least 6mm;
 - vi) The flap must have similar shock absorbing characteristics to that of the contact area;
 - vii) The overall weight must not exceed 160 gms.
- Clerks of the Scales will from time to time check the whips used by riders to ensure that they fall within the approved specifications. These checks will be carried out at the time of weighing out, and any rider found with a whip which does not conform will be advised that if he carries that whip during a race he will be in breach of Regulation 117.

- Random checks will also be made by the Stewards in the Parade Ring, and any rider whose whip does not appear to comply with the specifications will be ordered to report to the Clerk of the Scales for the whip to be checked. If it does not and you continue to ride with it you will be fined **£50** upwards.

5.4 **You may only wear racing boots with racing irons. Racing boots may NOT be worn with hunting irons.**

5.5 If you intend to use **SPURS** they must not be sharp, angled or fitted with rowels.

5.6 You cannot ride under the Point-to-Point Regulations wearing **SPECTACLES** or lensed goggles. In the case of people wishing to ride in contact lenses, the lenses must be of the soft type.

5.7 You must wear a **BODY PROTECTOR** whilst weighing out and during the race as is stated in Regulation 115 (iv):

“no rider in a Point-to-Point Steeplechase can be weighed out for, or ride in the race unless he is wearing a body protector of a pattern approved by the British Horseracing Authority”

Body protectors must always be in a serviceable condition and **not** modified. All body protectors must comply with one of the following standards (Effective 1 April 2015): **(BS) EN 13158: 2000 (level 1 only)**, (BS) EN 13158: 2009 or CSN EN 13158: 2009.

All riders receive a 2lb weight allowance for the body protector. This means that if you are due to carry e.g. 12st in line with the race conditions, the scales should actually read 12st 2lb.

If you are ever in any doubt about the BODY PROTECTOR or SKULL CAP you intend to wear you should contact the British Horseracing Authority Chief Medical Adviser on 0207 152 0138 who will supply you with details of approved patterns.

REMEMBER: IF YOU ARE NOT WEARING THE CORRECT STANDARD OF SKULL CAP OR BODY PROTECTOR IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU WILL INVALIDATE YOUR POINT-TO-POINT RIDERS INSURANCE POLICY.

RACEDAY

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I RIDE? [Regulation 50 (ii) and 55 (iii), (iv)]

6.1 Checklist before leaving home

Remember to take your:-

- Riders Qualification Certificate and Medical Record Book.
- Proof of membership of certain Societies, Associations etc. (if applicable).
- Skull cap.
- Body protector.
- Whip.
- Other riding equipment (e.g. saddle, girths, surcingle and breast plate).
- Cheque book or cash.

6.2 On arrival

Medical Record Books and Riders Qualification Certificate

- When you arrive at the Point-to-Point you should immediately show your RQC to the Declarations Clerk and leave him your MRB. The MRB **must** remain with the Clerk until you have finished riding for the day and you have been given the all clear to be released by the Point-to-Point Doctor.
- You **must not** ride if you are currently serving a specified period of medical suspension. Details of such suspensions are listed below and will be recorded in your MRB in RED INK:
- N.B for all periods of suspension, the first day of the suspension is the day following the injury.
- If you have been declared unfit to ride by a Point-to-Point Doctor you may not ride in a race until you are passed fit to ride by the British Horseracing Authority Chief Medical Adviser, or a Racecourse Medical Officer (RMO) or Point-to-Point Doctor on a raceday. Where a period of time is specified in the declaration you may only be passed fit to ride after this time has elapsed. Furthermore, where the injury was a fracture or dislocation you must also provide supporting documentary medical evidence to the Chief Medical Adviser, Racecourse Medical Officer or Point-to-Point Doctor, before you can be passed fit. **If you suffer concussion at a point-to-point meeting, you can ONLY be passed fit by the British Horseracing Authority Chief Medical Adviser.**
- If you have an outstanding "unfit to ride" entry in your MRB as recorded by an RMO you must be passed as fit by:-
 - i) an RMO providing the injury was not concussion; or
 - ii) a Point-to-Point Doctor providing the injury was not concussion or a dislocation or fracture.
 - iii) the British Horseracing Authority Chief Medical Adviser.

As stated above where a period of time has been specified in your declaration you will only be passed fit after the time has elapsed.

- Unless they also act as an RMO you cannot expect Point-to-Point Doctors to allow you to ride on raceday if you have not been passed as fit since e.g. breaking an ankle and being deemed unfit by an RMO at a race meeting under Rules.
- If you suffer concussion at a Point-to-Point meeting you can ONLY be passed fit again by the British Horseracing Authority Chief Medical Adviser. All riders who suffer concussion are subject to the British Horseracing Authority Concussion Protocol for Amateur and Point-to-Point Riders currently in place. Your return to riding timescale is likely to be quicker if you already have a series of "cogspport" baseline results. Should you be interested in undergoing the optional baseline testing procedures (cost £40) further details are available from:

The Chief Medical Adviser
The British Horseracing Authority
75 High Holborn
London WC1V 6LS
Tel No. 0207 152 0138
Fax No. 0207 152 0136

- If you are unable to present your RQC you will not be fined but you must sign the relevant form (held by the Declarations Clerk) on which you declare that you do possess one, are in good health, and not currently under a period of medical suspension. You will then be allowed to ride after the Doctor has examined you. The form is returned to the Point-to-Point Authority where

your name is cross-checked with the details of RQCs already issued. **If it is then evident that you do not actually possess an RQC you will be subject to a Disciplinary Panel hearing and a suspension / fine.** If you lose your RQC you must contact the Point-to-Point Authority immediately. You will be reissued with an RQC but will have to pay a small administration charge.

- **If you are unable to present your MRB you will be fined £60.** You must also sign the relevant form on which you declare that you do possess an MRB and are not currently under a period of medical suspension. You will then be allowed to ride once the Point-to-Point Doctor has examined you. The form is returned to the Point-to-Point Department where your name is cross-checked with the details of MRBs already issued. Please note: the **£60** fine will be waived if you sign the same form and declare that your MRB is currently with the BHA Licensing Department as part of the process of applying for an Amateur Permit to ride under the Rules of Racing. Your name will again be cross-checked with the Licensing Department's list of outstanding Amateur Rider applications.
- If you lose your MRB you must contact the Point-to-Point Department immediately. You will be reissued with a replacement MRB but will have to pay a **£50** replacement fee.

6.3 Walking the Course

To ensure you do not fall foul of Regulation 126 (ii) or (iii) you should walk the course before racing. Under Regulation 114 (vii) you must acquaint yourself in advance with the correct course over which you are to ride. You may not obtain the best possible placing if you are not familiar with the course.

7. **HOW AND WHEN DO I WEIGH OUT? [Regulations 111-119]**

- 7.1 You cannot weigh out unless you have already been declared to ride three quarters of an hour before the scheduled race time. However, if because of unavoidable circumstances a rider who has been declared **to** ride is unable to do so, you can act as a substitute providing the horse has not come under Starters Orders and there would be no unreasonable delay.
- 7.2 You may be declared to ride more than one horse if it is anticipated that the Safety Factor in any race will be exceeded and the race subsequently divides.
- 7.3 If you have been declared to ride more than one horse in the anticipation that the Race will divide, it is **your responsibility**, before the time of declaration, to state the order of preferred horses to the Declarations Clerk and inform the owners of your order of preference so that if the race does not divide accordingly, you will be unable to ride their horse. It will then be the owner's responsibility prior to declarations closing, to inform the Declarations Clerk whether the horse will be either withdrawn or an alternative rider will be substituted in the event the race does not divide to allow the rider to ride their horse (based on their order of preference).
- 7.4 You must weigh out no less than quarter of an hour before the scheduled race time. If you are late to weigh out or late entering the Parade Ring you are liable to be fined a minimum of **£50**.
- 7.5 When weighing out (or indeed weighing in) you must put onto the scale and **include in your weight** everything that the horse is to carry (or has carried) **except**:
 - whip
 - skull cap
 - bridle
 - rings

- plates
- blinkers
- hood
- visor
- eye shield or eye cover
- sheepskin cheek pieces
- anything worn on the horse's legs
- breast plate
- breast girth
- martingale
- muzzle
- neck strap.

Riders are required to wear body protectors in all races and you receive a 2lb weight allowance for this (see 5.6). e.g. If you are due of officially carry 12st, the scales must read 12st 2lb.

- 7.6 If the horse you are riding is to run in a hood fitted with blinkers, or any combination of hood, blinkers, visor, eye shield, or eye cover these items must be presented to the Clerk of the Scales prior to weighing out.
- 7.7 If you intend to carry over-weight **you** must declare the amount when weighing out. **NOTE** you may not carry more than 13 stone in any race, other than in a Hunt Members race.
- 7.8 When you have been declared to ride under Regulation 111 it shall be an offence if you do **not come under Starter's Orders** unless the Stewards are satisfied that this was due to:
- illness, or rider declared unfit to ride;
 - unqualified rider;
 - some other circumstances acceptable to the Stewards

If the circumstances are not acceptable to the Stewards a fine of £100 will be imposed.

- 7.9 **You** are responsible for the fit condition of the saddle which you use.
- 7.10 It is the **Owner's** responsibility to ensure that:-
- the horse is qualified and carries the correct weight;
 - the horse is properly saddled when it leaves the parade ring;
 - the horse carries the correct number cloth;
 - the colours you ride in are the correct ones and do not contain any advertising.

THE RACE

8. **AT THE START [Regulation 26]**

- 8.1 You are not allowed to jump a fence before the race itself.

- 8.2 You must leave the Parade Ring in good time so as to ensure there is no undue delay at the start. If the Stewards feel you are causing an undue delay to the start, they have the power to withdraw your horse.
- 8.3 When you arrive at the start you must place yourself under the Starter's control.
- 8.4 The Starter has full power to remove any unruly horse. You may ask permission from the Starter for your horse to be held but it must be held "at a stand" behind the other runners.
- 8.5 Misconduct (e.g. lining up before being instructed to do so) by a rider at the start is an offence and you are liable to be fined.
- 8.6 The Starter will raise his flag, indicating that the horses are under starters' orders and the race will start when this is lowered. The "recall man" will be positioned around 70 - 100 yards down the course and will lower his raised white flag when the Starter declares a "fair" start.

9. **FALSE STARTS [Regulation 26]**

- 9.1 If the Starter believes there has been a false start he will keep his flag raised (or raise it again if it had been lowered) and the "recall man" will remain in position with his flag raised.
- 9.2 You should pull your horse up and return to the start as soon as possible. If you complete a circuit of the course or fell/unseated when a false start has been declared, you will be withdrawn from the race. You will also be in breach of the Regulations.

10. **TAKING THE CORRECT COURSE [Regulations 122 + 126]**

- 10.1 All red flags must be passed on the rider's right; white flags on the left (except when bypassing a fence).
- 10.2 If your horse has refused at a fence, you are not allowed to be given a lead over any fence by a mounted person not riding in the race. Your horse will be disqualified if you do so.
- 10.3 If your horse runs the wrong side of a flag or misses a fence you must turn back and ride the course correctly from the point in question. Your horse will be disqualified if you do not. If you knowingly continue in the race when your horse has taken the wrong course you will be guilty of an offence and fined upwards of **£75**.
- 10.4 Where sets of **Direction Markers with Black & Yellow Chevrons** have been inserted in a fence you must go around the fence and continue in the race. Your horse will be disqualified and you will be guilty of an offence (unless there are exceptional circumstances) if you ignore the direction markers and jump the fence. Doctors and vets could well be treating injuries on the other side of the fence.

REMEMBER: DIRECTION MARKERS WITH BLACK & YELLOW CHEVRONS TELL YOU THAT THE FENCE MUST NOT BE JUMPED.

- 10.5 If you part company with your horse at any point during the race, you **MAY NOT** remount to continue. This applies once the Starter has lowered his flag to start the race. Should you remount in order to continue competing in the race, you will be liable to be fined a **£75 upwards** for improper riding.

However you will only be allowed to remount in order to sensibly hack back to unsaddle, and thus whilst no longer competing in the race. Please do not remount should you have ANY concerns that your horse is injured lame, injured or exhausted.

11. **WHEN MIGHT I BE GUILTY OF A RIDING OFFENCE? [Regulation 123 and 125-128]**

11.1 You must always ride safely and make every effort to obtain the best possible placing.

11.2 **FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACING**

- You shall ride every horse on its merits and give it the full opportunity to obtain the best possible placing. The Stewards will hold an enquiry if the answer to any of the two following questions is "No":
 - Was the horse asked for sufficient effort ?
 - Was it ridden to obtain the best possible placing ?
- If the Stewards decide that you failed to ride out for a place you will be fined **£75** upwards. If they believe you failed to ride out for first place (due to ill-judgement or negligence) you will be fined **£150** upwards. If they believe you concealed the horse's ability and intentionally failed to obtain the best placing, you will be fined **£250** upwards or the matter will be referred to High Holborn. The Stewards will also find the owner guilty of an offence if they decide that his riding instructions have caused you to be "in breach" of the Regulations. If the Stewards think you were using the course as a "schooling ground" for the horse they may suspend you for the rest of the meeting and/ or fine you **£90** or more. "Schooling" would include a situation where your horse may have refused early in the race and you decide to rejoin the field when they return on the next circuit.

RACE RIDING OFFENCES – INTERFERENCE

11.3 You must take every possible step to ride correctly and avoid endangering other riders. You should try to keep straight (especially near the finish when tired horses start to hang) and only move in or out when you have plenty of room. If the Stewards of the Meeting think that interference has taken place between horses during a race they can deem it ACCIDENTAL, CARELESS, IMPROPER OR DANGEROUS.

- If the Stewards think there has been **ACCIDENTAL** interference on your part and are satisfied that the interference improved the placing of your mount, your horse will either be placed behind the horse(s) it interfered with if that/those horse(s) finished in the first four, or placed last if that/those horse(s) were not in the first four. You will not be guilty of a riding offence. Stewards are instructed that the further away from the winning post that an incident occurs (other than Dangerous riding cases), the less likely it is that the result should be changed.
- If the Stewards think you are guilty of **CARELESS** riding (i.e. failing to take all reasonable steps to avoid causing interference, or causing interference as a result of a misjudgement or inattention, including when manoeuvring for position) your horse, if the interference had improved your placing, will be either placed behind the horse(s) it interfered with if it/they were in the first four, placed last. Otherwise, it will retain its placing if it finished behind the horse(s) it interfered with. You will be guilty of an offence and fined **£75** upwards (to a maximum of **£600**) – depending on the individual case, and whether, e.g. it is your second offence of the year.

11.4 If the Stewards think you are guilty of **IMPROPER RIDING** (i.e. if you **intentionally** strike another rider or horse, or ride in such a way that would be dangerous but for the fact that it did not cause

serious interference) your horse, if the interference had improved your placing, will be either placed behind the horse(s) it interfered with if it/they were in the first four, placed last, or retain its placing if it finished behind the horse(s) it interfered with. You will be guilty of an offence and fined **£75** upwards (to a maximum of **£600**) – depending on the individual case, and whether, e.g. it is your second offence of the year.

11.5 If the Stewards think you are guilty of **DANGEROUS** riding (i.e. causing serious interference by either purposely interfering with another horse or rider, or riding in a way which is far below that of a careful and competent rider) at any point in the race they will disqualify your horse. You will be guilty of an offence and fined **£150** upwards (to a maximum of **£600**).

11.6 **IMPROPER USE OF THE WHIP** [Appendix F of the Regulations]

Ensuring high standards of horse welfare and safeguarding the public perception of Point-to-Pointing are extremely important. A rider's use of the whip is one example of such that can easily catch the eye for the wrong reasons; **the BHA review for use of the whip has confirmed closer scrutiny of its use, clear bands to denote what is and what is not acceptable, and significant whip fines if you are found in breach.**

- The whip should be used for SAFETY and ENCOURAGEMENT only. It must not be used in such a way as to inflict injury. All riders should consider:
 - a) Showing the horse the whip and giving it time to respond before hitting it.
 - b) Using the whip in the backhand position for a reminder.
 - c) Having used the whip, giving the horse a chance to respond before using it again.
 - d) Keeping both hands on the reins when using the whip down the shoulder in the backhand position.
 - e) Using the whip in rhythm with the horse's stride and close to its side.
 - f) Swinging the whip to keep a horse running straight.

- The British Horseracing Authority have asked Stewards of Meetings to hold an enquiry into any case where a rider has used his whip in such a way as to cause them concern and publish the following examples of uses of the whip which may be regarded as a riding offence:-

- Excessive frequency

Penalties are as follows:

Whole race:	9-15 hits	£100 minimum
	16-20 hits	£150 minimum
	21+ hits	£250 minimum / referral

- Hitting horses which are:
 - i) out of contention *(£100 upwards – 3 or more hits)*
 - ii) showing no response *(£75 upwards – 3 or more hits)*
 - iii) clearly winning *(£75 upwards – 2 or more hits)*
 - iv) past the winning post *(£75 upwards – 1 or more hits)*

- Hitting horses:
 - v) with the whip arm above shoulder height *(£75 upwards – 2 or more hits)*
 - vi) without giving the horse time to respond, i.e. NO less than 3 strides between hits. *(£75 upwards – 3 or more hits)*
 - vii) to the extent of causing a weal or an injury *(£100 upwards)*

- viii) with excessive force *(£100 upwards – 1 or more hits)*
- ix) rapidly without regard to their stride i.e. twice or more in one stride *(£75 upwards – 3 or more hits)*
- Hitting horses in any place EXCEPT:
 - x) on the quarters with the whip in either the backhand or forehand position
 - xi) down the shoulder with the whip in the backhand position unless exceptional circumstances prevail. *(Both £75 upwards – 1 or more hits)*
- Hitting horses:
 - xii) with excessive frequency

Please Note: Penalties for whip breaches are cumulative and no cautions shall be given.

For example: If you are seen to have used your whip with excessive frequency (i.e. 8 times after the last fence) and whilst out of contention, you are liable to a £200 fine at the very minimum (£100 for excessive frequency and another £100 for using it whilst out of contention).

The use of the whip may additionally be judged to be improper in particular circumstances that have not been included above, i.e. out of annoyance (£100 minimum for any incident).

Should there be any enquiry or approach by Stewards as a result of concerns regarding use of the whip, you should be aware that these would always be noted and subject to review in determining penalties for subsequent breaches. If you are fined for a 2nd whip offence, penalties for the whip offence(s) committed shall be doubled; and for a 3rd associated offence, either tripled or referred to the British Horseracing Authority.

Novice riders may also be asked to be accompanied by the owner or owner's representative on occasions where they are invited to attend an enquiry into improper use of the whip.

11.7 **FAILURE TO PULL UP LAME OR EXHAUSTED HORSES**

Appendix V of the Regulations clarifies that riding a lame or exhausted horse to a finish is unacceptable. The thrill of e.g. completing your first Point-to-Point or continuing grimly a distance behind in order to collect third place prize money is no excuse for not pulling up. The sight of an exhausted horse falling at, or worse still straddling, a fence does the sport no credit and consequently if you are found guilty of this offence you will be fined **£150** or more.

12. WHAT ARE THE WEIGHING-IN PROCEDURES? [Regulations 130-132]

- 12.1 It is an offence to dismount before reaching the unsaddling area (unless there are mitigating circumstances). Once you have unsaddled your horse in the designated area you should immediately head for the weighing room/tent and report to the Clerk of the Scales.
NB You must always remove your own saddle, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 12.2 If you finished in the first four and you do not present yourself to the Clerk of the Scales to be weighed-in, your horse will be disqualified (unless there are mitigating circumstances) and you will be fined. The fine will range from **£40- £600** and you could be referred to the British Horseracing Authority.
NB The Stewards have the option to order all riders to weigh in for one race on the card.

- 12.3 When you weigh-in you must include the same clothes and equipment you used when weighing-out. (See 7.3).
- 12.4 If you weigh-in at 4lbs or more over the weight at which you weighed-out, you will be reported to the Stewards of the meeting but your horse will not be disqualified.
- 12.5 If you weigh-in at 2lbs or more less than you weighed out, your horse will be disqualified.
- 12.6 **IF YOU HAD A FALL DURING THE RACE YOU MUST REPORT TO A POINT-TO-POINT DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN YOU BEING FINED £70 (UNLESS THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES).**
- 12.7 If the Doctor examining you believes that you may be suffering from concussion he will ask you to follow a brief diagnosis protocol to assist his assessment. (See also 6.2).

13. **WHAT HAPPENS AT A STEWARDS' ENQUIRY?**

- 13.1 If the Stewards believe there has been a possible breach of the Regulations, or if an incident occurred which may affect the placings, or if there is speculation over the running of a race, they will announce a Stewards Enquiry.
- 13.2 If you are asked to attend an Enquiry you will be introduced to the three Stewards. The Clerk of the Course may also be present and the grounds for their enquiry will be explained to you.
- 13.3 Each witness will firstly be asked questions and the person against whom any allegations are made will also be given the opportunity to state his case, call witnesses and ask questions. The Stewards can ask questions at any time during the proceedings.
- 13.4 All those concerned in the incident will then be asked to leave the room/tent whilst the Stewards make their decision. If you are at the centre of the Enquiry you will be brought back into the room/tent and the Chairman of the Panel will explain the outcome. If you are found guilty of an offence and a fine is imposed you must ensure that this is paid **before** you leave the course.
- 13.5 You should be aware that a single Steward of the meeting can ask any connection of a horse (including the rider) to account for the poor/improved performance of the animal without necessarily holding a full official enquiry (Appendix S of the Regulations). Depending on the connections' response a full enquiry might still be held.

14. **HOW DO I LODGE AN OBJECTION? [Regulations 140-142]**

14.1 Raceday

If you feel that you have grounds for an objection, you or the owner of the horse should make one in writing within five minutes of the winner weighing-in. The objection needs to be signed by you or the owner and passed onto the Clerk of the Scales or Clerk of the Course together with a deposit of **£60**. If your objection is unsuccessful the Stewards may withhold the £60 if they deem it to be frivolous.

You can only withdraw an objection with the Stewards' permission.

14.2 Non-Raceday

If you feel that you have grounds for a "technical" objection which does not relate to incidents from weighing-out to weighing-in you can contact the British Horseracing Authority Point-to-Point Department at High Holborn within 14 days of the race meeting.

Costs and expenses of objections eventually heard at High Holborn will be determined by the British Horseracing Authority.

15. **HOW DO I APPEAL?**

15.1 Any rider can appeal against a raceday decision taken by the Stewards of the Meeting to the Disciplinary Panel of the British Horseracing Authority.

15.2 You should lodge a notice of appeal to the Disciplinary Department at High Holborn within seven days of the Stewards' initial decision and accompany this with a deposit of £500 or £220 when a fine of £500 or less is imposed. This deposit shall be forfeited or returned as the British Horseracing Authority considers appropriate. Your notice of appeal must be signed by you or your agent or solicitor and must state the grounds for the appeal in general terms.

15.3 Within seven days of making your appeal you must provide all relevant written evidence and representations you wish to be considered by the Disciplinary Panel to the Disciplinary Department.

15.4 A date for a hearing at High Holborn will be set and you may or may not have to attend, depending on certain criteria.

15.5 The Guidelines for the holding of Disciplinary enquiries by the Disciplinary Panel are laid down in Appendix U of the "The Regulations for Point-to-Point Steeple Chases".

15.6 Certain decisions of the Disciplinary Panel may also be appealed to an Appeal Board of the British Horseracing Authority. The criteria for these appeals are laid down in Appendix Y of the "The Regulations for Point-to-Point Steeple Chases" to which reference should be made in such eventuality.

16. **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE LEAVING THE COURSE?**

16.1 Assuming you are not involved in a Stewards' Enquiry, you must liaise with a Point-to-Point Doctor and the Declarations Clerk before you leave the course. The latter will hand over your MRB. It is your responsibility to check that the correct documents have been returned to you. If you have been injured and are unable to pick up your documents, it is still your responsibility to ensure that you have them when you next ride. Remember, if you do not have your MRB you will be fined **£60**.

17. **WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

17.1 **RIDING IN HUNTER CHASES**

If, having obtained your RQC and MRB, you wish to ride in Hunter Chases during the season; you should contact the Licensing Department of the British Horseracing Authority for further details. As part of the process you will be asked to forward your MRB to the British Horseracing Authority. However, you will be able to continue riding in Point-to-Points whilst the MRB is with the Licensing Department as long as you declare this on raceday.

17.2 USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

BHA Point-to-Point Executive	0207 152 0049
BHA Medical Department	0207 152 0138

17.3 "DO NOT'S" [Regulations 160-170]

You should never:

- accept any bribe in any form
- aid and abet any breaching of the Point-to-Point Regulations
- participate in violent or improper conduct on the course
- act in a manner prejudicial to racing's good reputation
- associate with disqualified persons
- mislead any officials.

17.4 DO'S

You should always try to:

- ride safely and with consideration for others (both human and equine)
- ride plenty of winners
- stay injury-free

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY, September 2014