

## **PONYING TO THE START**



### **Protocol for allowing runners to be accompanied to the start by a “pony”.**

1. Trainers should notify the Clerk of the Course by no later than the time of declaration under Order 124 (ii) that he wishes to “pony” a specified runner to the start.
2. Permission would only be granted on the basis that the runner was led to the start by use of a tether from the “pony” and under no circumstances would the “pony” be allowed to proceed loose in front of the runner.
3. All “ponies” should be geldings and vaccinated in accordance with normal BHA rules.
4. The “pony” would not be able to use the racecourse stables without permission from the racecourse executive and only once a stable has been allocated to every runner engaged in the meeting. If it uses the racecourse stables, it can only be attended by authorised stable employees.
5. All horses to be “ponied” should go down early and at a normal pace so that the other runners are not delayed at the start. They should pass the stands in the same way as all other runners (if required to do so by the racecourse executive.) In the case of races with a parade, the trainer must comply with instructions from the Stewards and Clerk of the Course in accordance with Instruction J12 of the Rules of Racing.
6. The “pony” should wait outside the paddock until the jockeys are instructed to mount, when the “pony” may enter the paddock to join up with the runner. Alternatively, the “pony” may wait at the entrance onto the course before joining up.
7. On arrival at the start the “pony” may stay with the runner until the horses go behind the stalls or may immediately separate and proceed behind the stalls where it should wait at a safe distance until the runners are dispatched. It should then exit from the track by the shortest route which also avoids interference with the running of the race. The rider of the “pony” will at all times obey the instructions of the starter, his assistants or other relevant officials.
8. The trainer will be responsible at all times for the conduct of the “pony” and its rider while on racecourse property. The rider and the pony should be of smart appearance and be appropriately dressed with a crash helmet and body protector that meet current safety standards.
9. The trainer will in all cases be responsible for the provision and associated costs of the “pony”.
10. The raceday Stewards have the authority to cancel any ponying arrangements if they believe the normal conduct of the meeting is likely to be, or is being, compromised.