

1st March 2016

Dear Licensed Trainer,

AMENDMENT TO FLAT STARTING INITIATIVE

We are writing to you regarding a change to the British Horseracing Authority's (BHA) Flat Start Initiative.

In the first instance, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the Initiative. We have produced the attached FAQ sheet for your convenience and hope this will remind you of the Initiative and assist with any queries relating to it that you may have.

In respect of the 2016 Initiative, following consultation with the National Trainers Federation (NTF), the BHA has agreed to trial an amendment to the calculation of final percentages. Each trainer will be given a one horse allowance, irrespective of the number of other horses they train which incur a criteria failure, prior to percentages being calculated (percentages are calculated from your 2015 runners).

If your percentage is above 10%, this means that as in previous years, you will be affected by the initiative in 2016 and will be advised by separate correspondence shortly.

Please be aware that the Starters will retain discretion to impose further requirements on any trainer who fails to demonstrate a genuine effort to address poor starting stall performance across their yard, or who is considered to be using the one horse allowance in a tactical manner.

The effect of this change will then be reviewed at the end of the 2016 summer flat season by the NTF and BHA. During the course of 2016, we will also be working with the NTF to address the issue of those who have been on the list on repeat occasions.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Robbie Supple at the BHA (email: rsupple@britishhorseracing.com, or telephone (Mobile) 07771 376326). You can also contact George Noad at the NTF who may be able to assist with any queries (Tel: 01488 71719 or Email: g.noad@racehorsetrainers.org).

Yours sincerely,



Annette Baker
Licensing Team Leader

Direct Line: 0207 152 0143
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BHA FLAT STARTING INITIATIVES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Flat Starting Initiative?

The Flat Starting Initiative exists to improve loading and safety at the start of races.

The BHA maintains statistics relating to Trainers whose runners have been reported or warned at the start during the course of each calendar year.

At the end of each year, we calculate each Trainer's individual percentage. If the percentage for the year in question exceeds 10%, you will be notified in writing that your runners in British flat races for the subsequent year will be affected in either one of two ways:

- (a)** If 10% or more: during the forthcoming year, any horse in your yard that has been referred for a stalls test will not be permitted to have one for 14 days after the date of referral. The only exception to this is where you have already entered the relevant horse in a Group, Listed, early closing or Heritage Handicap race;
- (b)** If 15% or more: In addition to (a) above, during the forthcoming year, any previously unraced debutant horse trained by you will have to undergo a standard stalls test before it can run in a flat race in GB. (Stalls tests are to be pre-booked with racecourses in the usual way).

You then have an opportunity to provide mitigating circumstances in writing for the BHA's consideration, before the initiative comes into effect.

Why will my horse be 'counted'?

The reason(s) your horse will be counted are set out under the following Rules of Racing:

- Report to Stewards – Rule (B)41
- Warning to Trainer – Rule (B)43

Should you wish to familiarise yourself with these Rules, please visit the Rules of Racing website at: <http://rules.britishhorseracing.com//Home> for full details.

How will you calculate my percentage?

The BHA will calculate your percentage using the following information:

- The number of individual horses you run on the flat during that year
- The number of horses 'counted' in the same time period, with each Trainer receiving a '1 horse allowance'

If your percentage is over the 10% threshold, we will look at your individual runners and give dispensation* for any horse that has been subject to a single warning (Rule (B)43) during the

year, but then subsequent ran 3 times without another request or warning. This horse is therefore not included in your final percentage.

*This dispensation does not apply to a horse whose original warning was for a 'late load' request.

Is there a way to have my horses assessed by the Starters without it being 'counted'?

You can use a pre-race stalls assessment to give your horses experience of going through starting stalls under raceday conditions. These take place in the same way as a stalls test, but horses do not pass or fail. Pre-Race Assessments are available for the following horses:

- Unraced horses – all unraced horses are eligible for pre-race assessment. Horses can gain invaluable experience and similarly, give Starters prior knowledge of any horse that will special treatment on race day. The horse may also qualify for a late load without incurring a criteria failure.

Pre-race stalls assessments for unraced horses can be booked in the same way as a normal stalls test via the Clerk of the Course, by noon on the day before the horse is to be tested.

- Previously raced horses – certain previously raced horses may qualify to undergo an assessment. These horses must be deemed suitable from their behavioural records in order to be granted the opportunity, e.g. one that is stubborn and plants itself. If the horse has previously been unruly outside of the stalls or in it, it will not be allowed to undergo an assessment without prior permission from the BHA. Having been granted special loading privileges, these will be adopted on a raceday with prior agreement from the trainer. If they prove unsuccessful, the horse will be withdrawn.

Any enquiries regarding the eligibility of a raced horse in your care to have a pre-race assessment should be made to Robbie Supple, by email: rsupple@britishhorseracing.com, or telephone (Mobile) 07771 376326.

I don't know which of my horses have been 'counted', how can I find this out?

Should you wish to find out which of your horses have been counted in your final percentage and why, please contact Robbie Supple or Annette Baker at the BHA to request this information. Robbie or Annette can be reached via the following:

- Robbie Supple - rsupple@britishhorseracing.com or 07771 376326
- Annette Baker – licensing@britishhorseracing.com or 020 7152 0000

If I am concerned about my percentage for the forthcoming season, can the BHA give me an early calculation?

We cannot predict your final percentage, but we can advise you of your interim percentage during the course of the year. To request this figure, please email licensing@britishhorseracing.com.