



ADVICE SHEET

NON-RUNNERS ADVICE ON WITHDRAWING HORSES

This NTF Advice Sheet provides information on

1. Withdrawing declared runners without incurring a penalty
2. Withdrawing declared horses on payment of a penalty
3. Notification of non-runners
4. Scratching horses entered for any race for which entries close more than 6 days before running

NB: Double declarations – unless you comply with the criteria section 1 below or Rules (F) 98 or (F) 99, leaving a horse declared in two races on the same day will incur a fine of £650 plus the £140 non-runner fine for the race it does not run in.

1. You may withdraw a declared runner without a penalty (Rule (F) 97) if:

- You submit a satisfactory Veterinary Certificate within 7 days of the race in which the horse was due to run. A Veterinary Certificate should be used where the horse shows any abnormal clinical signs
- You Self Certify the horse as a non-runner to Weatherbys specifying the reason. The horse is then suspended from running in Britain for 6 days starting on the day following the day on which it was due to race. Please remember to use this option responsibly
- The going on the day of the race changes from that which was posted on the Racing Admin website or was available from the Clerk of the Course on the day of declaration. Please note, in these circumstances you should not use a Self Certificate. Take care not to do so when declaring a non-runner online.
- You consider the going on the day to be unsuitable and the horse is at the racecourse and its identity has been verified by the Veterinary Officer
- You can demonstrate to the stewards that the reasons for the horse being a non-runner were beyond your control (e.g. horsebox broke down)
- The horse was declared in two races where a preference must be stated and is a non-runner in one of them, as permitted under Rule (F) 98 and 99. Please refer to the Rules of Racing for more information.

2. Withdrawing with a penalty (Rule (F) 96)

- If none of the circumstances described in 1 above apply, you can withdraw a declared runner by paying a penalty of £140.
- Also note that Rule 96.4.2 states that the stewards may decide to take other action against a trainer or owner if they consider the circumstances of a horse's failure to run make it appropriate.

3. Notification

- Non-runners must be notified to Weatherbys without delay and without exception on 01933 222377 (up to 5pm on the day of the race) or online (on the Racing Admin website) at any time before the horse arrives at the racecourse.
- From that point on, non-runners may also be notified to the Clerk of the Scales though you can still call Weatherbys if the Clerk is unavailable.

4. Scratching (Rule 95)

- A "scratching" from a race which closes more than 6 days before running must be made at any point from the time of entry through to noon on the day specified for Scratching in the race conditions.
- At that deadline, all horses that have not been scratched are retained as acceptors.
- Scratchings are irreversible, so once made, cannot be withdrawn.
- If a trainer knows at any time before declaration that a horse entered in a Class 1 Flat or Jump races, Heritage Handicaps and any race closing more than six days before running will be a non-runner, he/she must notify Weatherbys as soon as possible by making a Scratching.

18th June 2013