

Newsletter

The Voice of Britain's Racehorse Trainers



National Trainers Federation

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Fair regulation is vital

When the independent Appeal Board dismissed the BHA's appeal against the Disciplinary Panel's verdict on the positive test returned by Keep Moving, Philip Hobbs came out on the right side for the second time in a high profile appeal. Earlier this year, the NTF had supported his successful appeal to the Upper Lands Tribunal in a test case on non-domestic rates. We are grateful to our Legal Assistance team including Legal Executive, Dawn Bacchus, barrister Roderick Moore and Knights 1759 solicitors for their first class work in the latest case.

Trainers have expressed to us how vulnerable they feel to the unexplained presence of prohibited substances. The NTF has pressed the BHA in recent years to accept that when a trainer can show that he or she has done everything in their power to avoid the presence of a prohibited substance, there is justification for no penalty. The Appeal Board has now confirmed that the rules of racing endorse the NTF's position.

As you know, the BHA has stated it will seek a change in the rules so that the Responsible Person cannot escape a penalty if the source of the prohibited substance cannot be proved. Of course the burden of identifying the source falls on the Responsible Person. We will oppose such a change in the rules because, as Roderick Moore pointed out, "it would lead to trainers who have done everything right and absolutely nothing wrong" being hit with a penalty. It would offend against fair regulation.

BHA justifies declaration of wind surgery on basis of punter appeal

Notification of specified wind surgery is now obligatory and the notation WS will begin appearing in racecards from 19th January 2018 on the first occasion a horse runs following surgery.

The BHA's consultation began after our summer regional meetings but our Council conveyed its opinion to Nick Rust at its August meeting. It proposed an evidence-based approach. The first step would be to collect data from trainers about wind surgeries carried out over a two year period. That data would then be analysed to assess the extent to which different wind surgeries have a significant effect on the performance of a large enough cohort of horses to have some confidence in

the value of information provided to bettors.

Although collation of evidence forms part of the new arrangements, the BHA's priority was to make available to the public information that might affect their betting behaviour.

The types of wind surgery required to be declared are:

- 🛡 Tie back (prosthetic laryngoplasty)
- 🛡 Hobday (ventriculectomy/cordectomy)
- 🛡 Epiglottic surgery
- 🛡 Tie forward (dorsal displacement soft palate surgery)
- 🛡 Soft palate cautery

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The racecard will not display the specific type of wind surgery.

The declaration of wind surgeries will only be required for horses which have previously raced, regardless of whether this was in Great Britain or elsewhere. The declaration of a wind surgery will be required prior to declarations for the horse's first race start after it has been subjected to wind surgery. Where a horse is subjected to wind

surgery on multiple occasions the declaration will be required on each occasion. The requirement to declare wind surgeries will apply equally to horses trained in Great Britain and horses trained overseas which are racing in Great Britain.

For more detail about the administrative requirements for trainers, please refer to the email sent to all trainers by the BHA on Tuesday 21st November.

BHA managing budget to limit fee increases

When the BHA agreed a three year budget with stakeholders last year, it set a forecast for industry fees (including trainers' licence fees) so in 2018 there would be an increase by the higher of 2.75%, or CPI plus 0.75%. The CPI figure published at the end of October shows that inflation has risen to 3%, meaning that fees could have been increased by 3.75% from 1st January 2018.

The BHA Board has decided, however, to limit the increase to **2.75%**, which will apply to all fees from the beginning of 2018. This lower increase has been made possible by an improved financial performance this year, which means the BHA can apply this lesser increase in 2018 and still meet its aim to break-even over the three years.

Brexit impact on staffing raised at politicians' visits

A racing industry group is spearheading efforts to influence decisions about key issues caused by the UK's impending departure from the EU. Two major issues are movement of people and movement of horses and the BHA is ensuring that politicians understand the implications. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP has written about his visit to Jackdaw's Castle in his latest newsletter, including this statement about access to labour after Brexit.

"Last Friday's schedule began with a fascinating visit to Jonjo O'Neill's racing stables at Jackdaws Castle in Temple Guiting. My tour was conducted by Edward Gillespie, former Chief Executive of Cheltenham Racecourse, and included a detailed tour of the stables and horses with some interesting conversations with the stable lads and lasses.

"We then went outside to watch some horses on the gallops which was very poignant for me remembering my old point-to-point days. The purpose of my visit was to demonstrate the absolute necessity for the Government to do a Brexit deal which allows sufficient labour to enter from EU countries to support local industries in the Cotswolds such as racing, farming and tourism. Jonjo has about 140 horses in training and employs 50 staff along with providing indirect employment for a similar number of people in the local economy."

You may be aware that earlier this year the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), which advises the Government on immigration issues, called for evidence on the impact on the UK labour market of the UK's exit from the European Union and how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy. The NTF and BHA composed a joint response for the MAC as well as contributing to a response by the Sports and Recreation Alliance to a request for information from the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

Meanwhile, in Lambourn on 21st November, Stan Moore hosted a visit by John Howarth, MEP for the South East, and his secretary Ben Farnes. Sarah Moore and Christina Dunlop were also on hand to explain how an end to the current Tripartite Agreement, which allows free movement of horses between Britain, Ireland and France, would lead to unacceptable and expensive delays and concerns for the welfare of horses.

BHA fast track disciplinary procedures have started

In the September/October edition of our printed newsletter, we reported on the start of a trial of a new fast track BHA disciplinary procedure for certain offences. This is a result of recommendations made by Christopher Quinlan QC in his report on the BHA's disciplinary procedures and structure in 2016; it is used in other sports to avoid delays and unnecessary cost.

Common occurrences such as failure to notify gelding operations, and breaches concerning vaccination, passport and identity checks are examples of the types of cases which may be accelerated, although each case's suitability will be judged on an individual basis. Fast tracked cases will then be concluded administratively by an independent Disciplinary Panel, without the need of an oral hearing or any participants to travel and incur additional costs.

Handling cases in this manner will also free up resource within the BHA's Regulatory department to assist in ensuring that more complex cases are resolved more quickly, the need for which has been identified as a key requirement for the department.

If any NTF member receives the offer of a fast track procedure and would like to discuss it, then please ring Dawn Bacchus at the NTF office.

“Fast tracked cases to be concluded without a hearing”

Pro bono legal representation provides a safety net

In his 2016 report on the BHA Disciplinary structure, Christopher Quinlan QC addressed the issue of “inequality of arms” and recommended that *“The BHA should introduce the relevant stakeholders to Sport Resolutions with a view to offering Racing's participants access to pro bono legal advice and representation in the event that they become subject to BHA disciplinary proceedings and cannot afford representation.”*

The BHA has announced an agreement with Sport Resolutions to provide access to their pro bono panel for racing participants who cannot afford their own legal representation. The only cost would be a fixed administration fee of £200 plus VAT per case, payable by the participant. For this fee (which is solely intended to cover their administration costs – they are a not for profit organisation), Sport Resolutions would match the participant with an appropriate solicitor or barrister from the pro bono panel, who would then provide all necessary advice and representation, for no further fee. The BHA would have no involvement in the relationship between Sport Resolutions and the participant, and no knowledge of whether a particular participant had chosen to seek access to the service. The BHA intends to include standard wording in its charge letters to make participants aware of the availability of the service, and will include contact details for Sport Resolutions for those who may wish to use the service. Further information regarding the pro bono panel can be found here: <https://www.sportresolutions.co.uk/services/pro-bono>

This is not intended to replace existing methods of procuring legal advice and will only be available to individuals who satisfy Sport Resolutions that they cannot afford their own legal representation. Whilst the lawyers who make up the pro bono panel are highly qualified individuals with expertise in contentious matters relating to sport (including corruption, anti-doping etc.) they are unlikely to be expert in horseracing matters.

We will be taking this development into account as we review the NTF's Legal Expenses Insurance and Legal Assistance scheme before renewal in 2018.



Jumps initiative for novices

The BHA recently confirmed a new series of races for novice hurdlers beginning on 9 December as well as a championship final for novice chasers. The initiatives will result in £100,000 handicaps staged at the key end of season meetings at Sandown and Ayr in 2018 and are being supported by the BHA's Development Fund.

The hurdle series for novices will incorporate 36 qualifiers, one at each course racing between the launch of the series on 9 December 2017 and the £100,000 final at Sandown on 28 April 2018. All races in the series and the final will be run over two miles

In order to qualify for the final, horses must have finished in the first eight in at least one qualifier. The qualifiers will also include a small number of juvenile hurdles and mares' races, although both of these sections of the horse population are eligible to run in the other qualifiers. A full list of the qualifiers will be listed on the racing admin site in due course.

The £100,000 final for novice chasers will take place at Ayr on 21 April 2018, the race will be run over three miles, and will be an open novices' handicap steeple chase. In order to qualify for the chase final, horses must have finished in the first eight in at least one weight-for-age novices' or beginners' chase during the 2017/18 Season.

“All races in the series and the final will be run over two miles.”

Adjustment of weights in flat and jump handicaps

Allowing horses rated 1lb or 2lbs above the rating band in handicaps has led to a number of anomalies, which the BHA Racing Group has now moved to address.

Where the raising of weights is necessary, horses rated 1lb or 2lb above the upper rating limit of the race are initially disregarded for the purposes of raising of the weights. Once the weights have been raised based upon the horses rated within the rating range of the race, the weights of the horses above the band are also raised accordingly.

From 1st November, if the top weight (excluding penalties) remaining engaged in the race is therefore raised above 12st 7lb in jump handicaps or 10st 7lbs in flat handicaps, the top weight will be lowered to a maximum of 12st 7lb in jump handicaps and 10st 7lbs in flat handicaps, and all other weights lowered accordingly. In flat handicaps confined to Amateur Riders, the relevant top weight will be 12st.

Lowering of weights in jump handicaps

As part of the discussion on including horses rated +1lb or +2lb above the top of the rating band in jump handicaps, the BHA Racing Group has considered the Rule governing the raising and lowering of weights in Jump handicaps. It has now been agreed to mirror the way in which the rule operates on the Flat with regard to the lowering of weights when all declared runners are above 9st 2lb.

This has been operating successfully on the Flat for some years now and was introduced principally to remove the incidents of horses carrying unnecessarily high weights in races where all declared runners are above an agreed weight.

Rule (F)45.5 is being changed to bring those same benefits to Jump racing. After consulting the NTF, the BHA has agreed that where all declared runners are above 11st, the weights should be lowered to 11st accordingly.

Changes approved for Hunter Chase eligibility

A long debate over several Racing Group meetings has led to changes in the eligibility for Hunter Chases. They are:

1. Licensed Trainers can continue to run horses in Hunter Chases
2. Cessation of the November to December blackout period for horses running in the following year's Hunter Chases
3. No change to the Hunter Chase eligibility based on previous race performance
4. Horses that run under the care of a licensed or permit trainer in a Hunter Chase may run only in a Hunter Chase for the remainder of the Hunter Chase season (i.e. up to the Stratford HC meeting.) This also applies to a licensed Irish Trainer running a horse in any Hunter Chase in Britain or Ireland.

The NTF was concerned that the number of horses being sent Hunter Chasing from licensed yards may decrease significantly as a result of the fourth of these changes. The BHA's opinion was that that if the other three recommendations were implemented, particularly the cessation of the November and December blackout period, then the whole approach to Hunter Chasing eligibility would be relaxed to a point where a large proportion of horses would be able to dip in and out of Hunter Chasing, something that would be undesirable.

The Racing Group will review the impact of the changes, including the number of horses being sent Hunter Chasing from licensed yards, at the end of the first season.

Stayers programme boosted by Development Fund cash

The BHA has announced a significant commitment to boosting the programme for staying horses through increased expenditure from the BHA Development Fund for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The c. £1.5m fund, which is raised through the leasing of BHA fixtures to racecourses, will be distributed by the BHA to support longer-term strategic initiatives to enhance the breed and has been agreed following consultation with representatives of Horsemen and Racecourses.

The aim is to secure:

- Higher value Novice races for middle-distance and staying types at Class 3 and 4 levels
- A programme of Class 2, 3 and 4 staying handicaps which offer valuable prizes
- Enhancements to the prize money levels of certain races within the Black Type programme

62 races for the staying horse population will be supported by the Development Fund over the next three years, of which 25 are upgrades of existing races and 8 are new contests. As a result, the BHA Development Fund will invest £1,894,500 in these races between 2018 and 2020. Alongside this, racecourses have made commitments to increase the prize money for a number of Black Type races for three year olds.

The Development Fund will also support the following jump racing initiatives:

- A £100,000 Novice Handicap Chase staged at the end of the core Jumping period, with weight-for-age Novice Chase qualifiers throughout the season
- Similar initiatives for Novice Hurdles
- Enhance the programme for mares' Jump races by £200,000 and the programme of Juvenile Hurdles by £150,000



Update on the BHA Racing Admin website

BHA and Weatherbys are now starting the process of shutting down the old Racing Admin website. Some parts of the site will close before the end of the year (such as Horses in Training and Stable Employees) but the entries and declarations part of the website will remain open until the middle of January 2018 at which point the site will become unavailable.

Throughout the site's development the BHA and Weatherbys have asked for feedback and trainers have been fantastic in coming forward with suggestions and amendments, of which over 250 have been implemented since launch to make the website better for you. They ask that any further feedback should be sent to racingadmin@britishhorseracing.com. The team will endeavour to deal with these before the closure. It is worth noting however that the site will continue to be developed as time progresses and this does rely on feedback, so this email address will remain open so you may do that. Alternatively, please speak to George Noad at the NTF office.

Trainers are encouraged to use the time between now and the closure to ensure they are familiar with the new website at <https://www2.racingadmin.co.uk>. You will find help and support within the website under your Information Menu and "Help & Support". Help Videos are also available under "How To Videos".

Details of the new Appearance Money Scheme in 2018

Following the recent Levy reform and the expected higher returns to the sport from betting, the industry is introducing a new appearance money scheme for 2018, worth in the region of £6.5 million.

This new scheme ensures that no horse finishing in the first eight in the majority of Flat races at classes 4-6 will win less than £300. Over Jumps, the scheme applies to most races run at classes 3-5, with connections of the first eight home guaranteed a minimum payment of £350. Eligible races run on Friday and Saturday evenings, and all eligible races on Sundays, will see the minimum payment increase by £100, to £400 on the Flat, and £450 over Jumps. This new scheme will supercede the existing Sunday appearance money scheme. Full eligibility details can be found in the table below.

Payments will be distributed as follows:

-  80% to owner of the horse
-  8% to trainer of the horse
-  6% to the rider in the race
-  6% to the stable from which the horse was trained

In order for races to qualify for the scheme, racecourses must ensure that the race is run for £900 or more above minimum value. As such, the purpose of the scheme is two-fold:

- i) To improve returns to connections by incentivising racecourses to invest their own funds in prize money at the grassroots of the sport
- ii) To improve field sizes through an increased frequency of runs per horse and/or distributing existing runners differently

Details of exactly which race types are eligible are shown in the table below:

Flat
All Class 4-6 races included, but not: WFA Novice races WFA Maiden races
Jump
All Class 3-5 races included, but not: All Hunter Chases All NHF races WFA Novice/Maiden Hurdles
For the avoidance of doubt, all Novices' Chases, Beginners' Chases & all Juvenile Hurdles (WFA or handicap) are included in the scheme.

Eligible races will be marked with this logo in the Racing Calendar:



If you have any questions on the scheme, please contact the BHA Racing Department on racing@britishhorseracing.com.



Extension of handicap qualification rules from 2 year olds to all Flat horses

As you will be aware, from 1st January 2018 the rules that currently apply to qualification for Nursery handicaps will be extended to older horses. This means that the following qualification will apply:

No horse trained in Great Britain may run in a Handicap unless the Handicapper is prepared to allot a rating and

- it has run at least three times in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland, or*
- it has won twice in a flat race in Great Britain and/or Ireland with at least one of the wins being in Great Britain.*

As this has been rolled out across two calendar years, the BHA is aware that there may be horse of 4 years old or greater that may have qualified for a handicap rating after fewer than three runs and subsequently been off the track. Although the handicap rating would have been expunged automatically after nine months of inactivity, the BHA has clarified the approach the handicapping team will take should a handicap rating be requested for horses that fall into this category.

Any horse that was previously eligible for a handicap rating but which does not now meet the new qualification criteria will be required to meet the new qualification criteria detailed above before becoming eligible for a handicap rating in 2018.

NH Flat Races at Newcastle

Please note that throughout January and February, all NH Flat Races at Newcastle Racecourse will be run on the all-weather track.

Precautions when horses travelling to a vet centre

RCA investigations have concluded that horse ambulance providers are unable to secure insurance for further injury during transport to an already injured horse, thereby creating an uninsurable risk. A central policy was not viable.

As a result the RCA is liaising with the BHA and others to decide what official stance needs to be taken and what steps need to be taken by owners and trainers. We will update you on this once these discussions have concluded. Meanwhile, you should instruct your travelling staff that they must not travel in the trailer with the horse.

More pushers permitted at stalls tests

The BHA has decided to increase the number of pushers allowed at stalls tests. From 1st November four pushers may be used at stalls tests because this reflects the usual practice at race starts.

We would also draw your attention to the update to the BHA General instruction 12.1 about veterinary surgeons attendance at the start. Specifically, trainers and their staff need to be aware that horses which are withdrawn at the Start or at a Stalls Test for veterinary reasons must return in the Horse Ambulance.



Alex Scott Scholarship winner

We are delighted to report that Brydi Allison has been awarded the 2017 Alex Scott Assistant Trainers Travel Scholarship. Brydi, who works for David Simcock, will be spending her work placement in Australia with Tony McEvoy. The award, worth £3000 and funded by the Tim Dunlop Memorial Travel Scholarship, helps to fund air fares and living expenses, allowing Brydi to gain experience across several locations from the Barossa Valley to Adelaide and Melbourne.

Mobile training facility a hit with trainers

The British Racing School is once again offering trainers the opportunity to benefit from 'in-yard' training with the Mobile Training Facility – a vehicle with an electric racehorse simulator plus the option to video and review. This can be used as a discreet activity or as part of riding work training undertaken by a jockey coach involving tuition, riding a piece of work and a video review. Over twenty trainers have previously made use of this training and it has been very well received. Trainers to have used the mobile unit report an extremely positive outcome for their staff. It often acts as a beneficial team building exercise.

Any trainer wishing to book training should contact Di Farrell-Thomas (di.farrell-thomas@brs.org.uk). Where possible the BRS would wish to deliver a batch of training in one area to avoid long distance travel to a single trainer so coordination between trainers to agree similar dates would be appreciated.

Employment Programme building numbers of new entrants

An update from the BHA People and Development Department reported on the success of the Entry to Employment programme. Equine College Students taking part graduated at the end of July, following a 4 week training course held at the Northern Racing College (BRS cohort having graduated earlier). 16 students took part in this programme with 12 of them being placed into employment at a racehorse trainers yard. The other 4 required extra training before they could be placed into the industry and are still at the racing schools.

This is just one of a number of initiatives from the BHA and the industry stakeholder group to promote recruitment into racing yards. It is welcome news that new joiners to the stable staff register in Quarter 3 of 2017 were 357 compared with 338 in 2016.

Change in contact details for PRIS

Please note that referrals to the administrator of the Professional Riders Insurance Scheme (PRIS) should use the following contact details:

Mrs Marilyn Bracher
Professional Riders Insurance Scheme
Jollity Farm, Higher Halstock Leigh, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9QY

Tel: 01935 891 974

Email: info@pris.org.uk



Start now to incorporate new Data Protection Regulations

New data protection regulations are coming into force on 25th May 2018. Whilst that seems a long way off, businesses need to start taking action now to move towards compliance next year.

The General Data Protection Regulations apply to employers because they process personal data about their workers – personal data is general data about the individual and a special category of data which relates to particular characteristics (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sexual orientation or sexual life and genetic and biometric data) – extra steps must be taken with regard to special category data.

The NTF will be issuing guidance over the coming months, working through the different stages of what you need to do.

The new legislation will require privacy notices to be given to employees explaining how their personal data is used, the lawful basis for the business processing the information, and the amount of time it will be retained, as opposed to the employee just giving blanket consent as at present.

Other key issues are that you must be able to demonstrate compliance and notify those affected by a data breach. You must have systems in place designed with privacy and data protection in mind.

As an initial step, we would advise that you decide who in the business will take responsibility for overseeing compliance with the new data protection regulations. Once you have done that, the next step will be to audit what information your business currently holds. You can then consider what needs to be kept, why you need it and then move towards notifying employees about it.

Step 1 Appoint the person or persons responsible for data protection within your organisation

Someone should be given overall responsibility to ensure that the data protection work is undertaken; however we recommend that you do not call the person a data controller since this is a title that brings various obligations with it. We suggest using the title data protection manager or data protection leader.

Step 2 Arrange an audit of personal data held by your company

There is no set way of carrying out the audit but questions to be considered about the information held include:

- What kind of data is being collected, where and why?
- How is the data used (i.e. processed) both internally and externally?
- How long is the data retained?
- Who has access to the data both inside and outside the business?
- What procedures and controls are in place to keep data safe?

The amount of time this may take should not be underestimated so it is good to start now. Such data will include use of CCTV, sending payroll out to a third party provider, and customer data bases – it is not just about employees.

Further information – which will be developed over the next few months as more guidance is issued by the Information Commissioners Office – is available on the NTF website in the employment area under General Data Protection Regulations. Members can find a suggested audit template and a link to the ICO website.



Trainer's responsibilities for stable staff pensions

As an employer, you are responsible for ensuring that qualifying employees are auto enrolled into an appropriate workplace pension scheme. Most trainers will by now have set up their scheme as the legal requirement for Auto Enrolment (AE) has been in place since 2012 for large employers and smaller employers should have complied during this year.

If you are a new employer and are not sure what you should do, check out the NTF's Auto Enrolment Guide on the website and The Pension Regulator (TPR) website.

If you missed your start date, you still need to work out what your AE duties are and comply with them immediately. You may also need to backdate contributions for member of staff that need to be put in a workplace pension. Find out more on the TPR website.

If you are less than six weeks after your start date, you must backdate your member of staff's scheme membership to the day they first met the age and earnings criteria to be put in a scheme, and you may need to backdate contributions, too. Alternatively, you can use postponement to delay the assessment of their workforce for a period of up to three months from their duties start date. If more than six weeks have passed since your duties start date, you'll have to do the same but you will be unable to use postponement.

Auto enrolment rules on opting out

During inspections carried out by The Pension Regulator across the country, there have been a number of instances where employers had agreed to opt staff out of a workplace pension before they had been enrolled.

If employers do this, they are not complying with their duties in the correct way and may risk a fine if they appear to be making the decision to opt out on behalf of their staff. Eligible staff must be enrolled first – they can only opt out (if they wish to) after being enrolled.

Employers need to follow all the steps in the TPR Duties Checker, including setting up a pension scheme, putting eligible staff into it and writing to them, before they can choose whether to stay in or opt out. See the TPR website for more information on the key steps to follow.

Check your workers' employment status

The importance of ensuring that anyone working for you as self employed properly meets that description and is not a worker or employee is highlighted by a recent European Court decision regarding holiday pay.

In the case of King v Sash Windows the court has ruled that a person who believed himself to be self-employed and as such not given paid holiday by his "employer" was in fact a worker and entitled to 5.6 weeks paid annual leave. An argument by the "employer" that the holiday had been lost as it was not taken in the relevant holiday years failed as Mr King was prevented from taking his paid holiday because the "employer" would not grant it. The Court decided that his back pay claim could go all the way back to 1996 when the original Working Time Directive came into force.

This is, of course, a different situation from an employee who is aware of his or her holiday entitlement and does not take it – though good practice is to encourage employees to use their holiday.

Information on employment status is available in the Members Area of the NTF website. See Employment Matters, then Employment Guidance.

Mandatory EHV vaccination for racing in France

France Galop has announced that EHV vaccination is to become mandatory for racing in France. The NTF understands that the BHA and Animal Health Trust do not favour the French policy, which appears to disregard the shortage of vaccine in Europe and the problems encountered by trainers who have used imported vaccine. However, a letter written by France Galop states, “*The EHV vaccination was already mandatory in France for the breeding stock...and our stakeholders have expressed the will to have all the racehorses vaccinated. Consequently we have decided to extend the benefit of this vaccination to the training and racing areas.*” The BHA has issued the following guidance:

Vaccination Protocol

The vaccination protocol will be the same as the protocol for vaccinations against Equine Influenza:

- The horse must have received two primary vaccinations which are given not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days apart
- If sufficient time has elapsed, the horse must also have received a booster vaccination which is given not less than 150 days and not more than 215 days after the second component of the primary vaccination
- Further booster vaccinations at intervals of not more than a year apart (or such lesser times as the Authority may, in an emergency, decide) Booster vaccinations at six months are not required, though these may be administered in accordance with the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations if deemed appropriate by a trainer's veterinary surgeon.
- The horse must have been vaccinated against Equine Herpes Virus by a veterinary surgeon, and the vaccination must be licensed for use in UK.

Stand-Down period following vaccination

France: none of the vaccinations must have been given on the day of a race in which the horse is declared to run or on any of the 4 days before the race.

Great Britain: none of the vaccinations must have been given on the day of a race in which the horse is declared to run or on any of the 6 days before the race. This Stand-Down period applies to all vaccinations, including Equine Herpes Virus.

Failure to comply Horses arriving on racecourses in France that have not been correctly vaccinated against Equine Herpes Virus will not be permitted to run.

This Rule has not yet been published in the France Galop Rules of Racing. The requirements of the Rule will be made effective 3 months after publication. The BHA will communicate the date of publication as soon as it is made aware.

Only vets can give intravenous injections

We would like to remind you that unless they have the right veterinary qualifications, trainers and their staff are not permitted to take blood samples or to administer intravenous (IV) injections.

This is because under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, all intravenous procedures, including the taking of blood samples, are considered to be a practice of veterinary surgery. The Act provides that only registered members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) may practise veterinary surgery. The taking of blood samples may only be carried out by people qualified to do so, (i.e. veterinary surgeons and registered veterinary nurses,) and those to whom exceptions apply (for example, veterinary students under supervision).



Microchip number must be checked against passport

With effect from 1st January 2018, the rules will require trainers to have checked the microchip number for all horses in their care against the number in the horse's passport. This is in addition to the existing requirement to check that the horse's markings match those in the passport. Any discrepancy in either must be notified to Weatherbys.

Your vet will have a microchip scanner so you can ask him/her to check the number during a routine visit. Alternatively, some trainers may find it useful to purchase their own scanner; they cost around £50 and can be purchased online.

Insights into Strangles surveillance and research

The Strangles Workshop recently held at the fabulous Animal Health Trust (AHT) Visitor Centre provided a fascinating insight into the complex and ground breaking disease surveillance and research underway into this disease. Strangles is endemic across most of the world, with evidence that more than 600 outbreaks are identified annually in the UK alone, but thankfully very few of these occur in British racehorses. Dr Richard Newton of the AHT commented,

"The rarity of strangles in racing is undoubtedly linked to the zero-tolerance that the industry has to it, such that trainers, their vets and the BHA all work closely together to control and eradicate the disease when it occurs. It is important that racing remains vigilant and in particular becomes open to adopting wider preventive strategies such as quarantining and screening batches of horses entering training for the first time and those returning from events, such as international meetings, where there may be a heightened risk of introducing a range of infectious diseases including strangles." You can read more about the workshop on <https://ntfmuse.wordpress.com>

Regulation deadlines

- 🛡️ Pension auto enrolment staging dates
– **Up to February 2018** for businesses started since April 2012.
- 🛡️ **By the end of 2017** – original Racing Admin website will close.
- 🛡️ **30th October 2017** – New non-runner rules take effect: trainer's non-runner percentage, 2-day stand down for Vet Certificates; increased fine for non-runners after 9.00am.
- 🛡️ **1st November 2017** – in handicaps, if after raising of weights, a horse rated 11lb or 2lbs above the rating band is set to carry more than 10.7 (flat) or 12.7 (jumps), the weights will be lowered so the top weight carried 10.7/12.7 and other weights lowered accordingly. Amateur races on flat – 12st.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – minimum ratings applies to all non-two year old Group 1 and non-novice Grade 1 races.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – when extending declaration deadline, each trainer with a declaration will be deemed to have declared only one horse.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – microchip number on any horse under trainer's care must be checked against the number in the passport.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – a horse may not be made a non-runner on a self-cert once the Declaration Sheet on the racecourse has been signed.
- 🛡️ **1st January 2018** – trainer becomes responsible for notifying the BHA when a mare in their care is pregnant.
- 🛡️ **19th January 2018** – certain types of wind surgery must be notified for declaration on racecards.



Strategy to attract owners is gathering pace

One strand of the racing industry's strategy for growth is to revitalise the campaign to increase the number of racehorse owners. This is being developed and managed by the ROA with regular reports made to the BHA Executive and Members Committees.

As a healthy level of racehorse ownership is fundamental to sustainability of trainers' businesses, the NTF is supporting the ROA work. Three members of the NTF Council, Nick Alexander, Ann Duffield and Lawney Hill are contributing to groups on racecourse standards, ownership promotion and trainers.

Syndicates Association to collaborate with the NTF

For many trainers, syndicates are the life-blood of their yard and it's not uncommon for well over half the horses to be in group ownership schemes of various types. It is estimated that there are over 5,000 owners involved; commercial syndicators are already managing well over 1,000 horses, with numbers growing all the time; and the economic contribution to British racing is well over £50 million a year. This is in marked contrast to sole ownership which is in steady decline. Syndicates are inevitably going to be an even greater component of total ownership in the future. Different types are emerging, with trainers entering into joint ventures with professional syndicators, racecourses setting up their own racing clubs and increasingly large numbers of first-time owners coming into the sport through small, fractional shareholdings.

The Racehorse Syndicates Association (RSA) is the industry body representing professional syndicators. Details can be found on www.racehorsesyndicates.org. All the big names such as Highclere and Middleham Park are represented, as well as many smaller operations right across Britain. Some of these groups are amongst the biggest owners in the country. Membership has doubled in the past two years and is now at its highest ever level. In the short term the RSA is working hard to improve the overall benefits package at racecourses for syndicators and syndicate owners while developing a longer-term strategy that assesses the broader implications for racing of the likely huge growth in syndication.

The RSA recently approached the NTF with a view to collaborating, so we are proposing a small working group to identify areas of common interest and create an action plan for joint promotion of syndication as well as understanding the needs of trainers and racing secretaries in this area. If you'd like to be involved in this group, please let us know. Our aim would be to weave this work into the overall industry strategy headed by the ROA.

Accessing relief for the 2017 business rates revaluation

Local authorities have been given funding from central government to support locally designed rate relief schemes aimed at reducing increases in rates liabilities caused by the 2017 Rating List Revaluation, which came into effect on 1st April 2017.

We know that some trainers have received a letter from their local authority notifying that the trainer is entitled to relief under the local scheme. In one letter we have seen, the trainer was automatically awarded nearly £1500 in relief without having to apply. However, we recommend that you make enquiries to your local authority to check how their scheme works and ensure you don't miss out on the valuable relief that may be available.



Forthcoming rule changes

Dispensation from rule requiring runners on Flat turf to be fully shod

There has been a minor change to the rule in (B) Schedule 4. From 1st January 2018, in exceptional circumstances only, the Stewards may use their discretion to allow a horse to run even if it has not entered the Parade Ring fully shod.

No self certs once declaration sheet signed – Rule (F)97

From 1st January 2018 once the declaration sheet on the racecourse has been signed, a horse may not be made a non-runner using a self-certificate. This change could be dubbed “the Willie Mullins rule” because it is being enacted in response to the Irish Champion trainers withdrawing horses at Sandown on the last day of the jump season once he was unable to win the British Jump Trainers Championship.

Notifying pregnant mares

From 1st January 2018, trainers will become responsible for reporting any pregnant mare in their care and control. Although this responsibility previously lay with the owner, because the trainer would always have had to satisfy themselves that any mare in their training was no more than 120 days pregnant, there is no additional burden in terms of obtaining information, only in reporting it.

Non-runner rates and permission to use Self-Certificates

The BHA has already published individual trainers’ non-runners as a percentage of declarations. These will be refreshed at the end of each quarter, omitting trainers who have not had at least 100 declarations. Any trainer with a non-runner percentage greater than 50% above the average for flat and jump respectively on 1st April 2018, will have the right to use Self Certificates withdrawn for 12 months. Horses that have already arrived at the racecourse and are subsequently declared as non-runners due to unsuitable going, will not be counted in the trainer’s percentage.

Two-day stand down following use of a Vet Certificate

Any horse that has been declared a non-runner using a Vet Certificate may not run again on any of the following two days. For example, a horse declared a non-runner on a Monday may not run again until the Thursday in the same week.

Fine for late announcement of a non-runner

Where the circumstances of a declaration of a non-runner lead to a fine, that will increase to £500 (from £140) if the non-runner declaration is made **after 9.00am** on the day of the race.

Looking after trainers facing hardship

In recent years there have been occasions when trainers have faced unforeseen circumstances that have put their welfare at risk or caused financial hardship. Although the NTF is always on hand to advise its members, and trainers are eligible for support from Racing Welfare, there was no dedicated benevolent fund for moments of crisis.

In April 2015 the NTF and BHA established the Racehorse Trainers Benevolent Fund which collects a small contribution from prize money earned in this country by overseas trainers. The trustees are former trainers Henrietta Knight, Martin Fetherston-Godley, and (ex officio) the NTF Chief Executive (Rupert Arnold) and BHA Director Will Lambe. The trustees have

discretion to make grants subject to the criteria set out in the trust deed. The beneficiaries are British licensed trainers, who have been members of the NTF for at least four years, and their dependents.

We are keen to make sure trainers are aware of the fund so we have been promoting it at regional meetings and have information on our website, including an application form. It is likely that trainers will often know about colleagues in need before the NTF executive hears about it. Therefore to some extent we are depending on our members and others in racing to spread the word or to contact us if they know of a trainer who requires help. In the first instance, contact Rupert Arnold at the NTF office.



Extra copies of the NTF Racing Diary 2018

The NTF Racing Diary is the official diary of the National Trainers Federation, containing invaluable information for daily use by a racehorse trainer.

If you would like to order extra copies of the 2018 edition, you can do so through the Publications page on the NTF website.

Retired trainers' metal badges for 2018

The RCA would like to remind retired trainers who are the holders of RCA Metal Badges that they will only send 2018 badges to those who are holders of PASS cards. Everyone should have received their PASS cards but if not either download the application form at http://www.racehorsetrainers.org/members/pdfs/pass_card_application.pdf or contact Weatherbys PASS card department pass@weatherbys.co.uk

Auto Enrolment Pensions

Auto Enrolment applies to all employers.

Do you know your staging date?

Have you notified a contact to the Pension Regulator?

Don't risk a fine by failing to comply

Read the NTF Auto Enrolment Guide on our website and plan your scheme now.

RACING UK

Don't forget Racing UK has generously offered all NTF members a free subscription for every one purchased. Racing UK shows racing from 34 leading racecourses in the UK – and all in glorious HD. To avail yourself of this offer, please email trainers@racinguk.com.



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