



12th July 2024

This page up to date of 12th July. No Race Planning news in the Weekly since 5th May below.

5th May 2024

Programme Book 3 Schedule

The early index for races from 24th June – 15th Sept are now available to [download from the NTF Website](#). Races from 24th June to 14th July will be online on Wednesday 1st May and the rest of the book will be online on 16th May.

BHA rule change: declaring non-runners in races from the starting stalls

A change to the Rules of Racing will see BHA Stewards able to declare a non-runner in any race beginning from starting stalls if they believe that a horse has been denied a fair start. Under the existing Rules, a horse can only be declared a non-runner if it has been prevented from starting due to a faulty action of the starting stalls or if it is riderless at the off. However from 1 May 2024, the powers of the Stewards will be extended to include situations where a horse has been prevented from starting on equal terms and its chances in a race have been materially affected as a consequence.

The change - which aligns Britain with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) model rule and the approach applied by other major racing nations - follows engagement with and feedback from industry stakeholders, including participants and the betting industry, and approval by the BHA Board. Use of the updated Rule will be at the discretion of the BHA Stewards and may include instances where a stalls malfunction causes some stalls to open more slowly than others, as was the case in the 2023 Epsom Dash. It could also cover scenarios where there is a problem with equipment fitted at the start, or a stalls handler is still attempting to assist a horse and jockey when the starting mechanism is triggered.

The updated Rule can also be applied in circumstances where a horse has obtained an unfair advantage at the start, for example if a runner forces the gates open prematurely before the Starter has triggered the starting mechanism. However, a horse will not be declared a non-runner if it merely accelerates the gates once the Starter has operated the starting mechanism. Any consideration by the Stewards will always precede the 'weighed in' signal, with participants, racegoers and the betting public alerted that an incident at the start of the race is being reviewed.

The full press release can be found [HERE](#)

The new rule can be found [HERE](#)

[The Trustees of The Beaufort Cottage Educational Trust](#)

request the pleasure of your company at:

The Gerald Leigh Lectures - "Optimising Youngstock Growth and Development"

Wednesday 12th June 2024, Tattersalls, Newmarket, CB8 9AY

RSVP: <mailto:beaufortcottageet@gmail.com> By 20th May 2024

Please consider passing this invitation to an interested colleague or team member if you are unable to attend.

Salisbury Road Closure

Important road closure information around Salisbury Racecourse. A section of the A360 between the A303 (Longbarrow roundabout) and the top of The Avenue at Wilton is closed until at least mid-July. Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), on behalf of National Highways, are carrying out work along this length of road to provide power for the future Stonehenge tunnel project. This closure is the circa 5-mile length of road which passes Druid's Lodge Polo Stables (formerly a racing yard).

This is the route many horseboxes would normally take. A diversion is in place; turning off the A303 sooner (3 miles further east) to join the A345 at Amesbury and then driving into Salisbury and join the A36 out towards Wilton. Trainers coming from the west usually turn off the A303 earlier at Deptford and come along the A36.

[This link](#) provides more information, as well as a map. The racecourse is close to where the "H" is in "WILTSHIRE" at the bottom of the map

National Racehorse Week will take place on the 7th – 15th September 2024

National Racehorse Week showcases the magnificent care racehorses receive from stud through to retirement. By opening your doors, racing is able to create deeper relations between the sport and new audiences.

To take part in National Racehorse week through hosting an open day or getting involved in a community event, please sign up by [following this link](#).

21st March 2024

Programme Book 2 Update

Premier Racedays

Premier Racedays continue in PB2 where fixtures are run for at least £250k on the Flat (£225k Sunday) and £200K over Jumps (£180k Sunday). Higher Minimum Values will apply at Premier Racedays, where, in addition, no Flat race will be worth less than £20,000 and no Jump race less than £15,000. The full list of Premier Racedays in PB2 can be found here

<https://www.britishhorseracing.com/2024-programme-book-2-update/>

Flat Programme

1. Divisions

Following a trial of dividing races at 16 declarations on the All-Weather (outside the Turf season), AW races will now return to dividing at 18 runners at all racecourses while a review of the trial takes place.

2. +1/+2

The option to run horses that are 1lb or 2lb above a race's published rating band will return to Class 5 and 6 handicaps following the trial of its removal during PB1. A review of that trial will now take place.

3. Race Volume

As part of the re-distribution of Flat races to better match the horse population across the year, the following rules will apply to Core race volume:

- On the Turf in March and April, fixtures will programme 7 races and be able to divide to 8.
- On the AW to the end of March, fixtures will continue to programme 7 races, with the option to divide to 9. In April, they will only be permitted to divide to 8.
- On both surfaces during May, June and July, racecourses will programme an average of 6.5 races across these three months. This will mean a combination of 6 and 7 race cards. All meetings will be permitted to divide to 8.

4. Flat Pattern

- As previously confirmed, the Listed Ganton Stakes at York (8f, 3yo+, June), The Sovereign (8f 3yo+ Gp3, August) at Salisbury and the Scarbrough (5f 2yo+ Listed, September) at Doncaster have been removed from the Pattern and Listed race programme.
- A change to the race conditions for the Listed Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot (7f, 2yos) will see horses no longer be eligible to qualify via their dam's performance. The race will return to a stallion only qualification as the race was prior to 2019 (sire must have won over 10f+).
- The win restriction has been removed from the Acomb at York (7f, 2yo Gp3 August)
- The Group 3 Pinnacle Stakes at Haydock Park (12f, 4yo+ fillies & mares, June) has been renamed as the Lester Piggott Stakes.

5. Restricted Race Bands

The following changes have been made to the Restricted race programme for 2024:

- There has been a reduction in the number of Band D races for two-year-olds and an increase in the number of Band B races. All remaining Band D races will be run as Maidens.
- There will be no Band D races run for older horses in 2024.

6. High Value Maiden and Novice

As previously announced, 84 High Value Development Races worth more than £3million in total prize money will be staged in Britain in 2024, across a range of racecourses, with the programme made up as follows:

- 32 Open Novice/Maiden races for two-year-olds, worth a minimum of £40,000;
- 29 Restricted Novice/Maiden races for two-year-olds, worth a minimum of £30,000;
- 23 Open Novice/Maiden races for three-year-olds plus, worth a minimum of £40,000.

- This will begin with the Brocklesby Stakes at Doncaster on the opening day of the 2024 Turf season, one of 60 such races for two-year-olds.

7. Additional Northern Fixtures

Two additional Flat fixtures have been added in the North to address regional gaps in the race programme. Newcastle will stage an afternoon All-Weather fixture on Monday 8 April, with Thirsk racing on the afternoon of Tuesday 9 April.

These have been added having identified specific gaps from a race planning perspective which have been filled to support northern participants.

Jump Programme

1. Race volume reduction

As part of plans to improve competitiveness of Jump racing in 2024, 300 races overall will be removed across the whole year. Racecourses will continue to programme an average of 6.5 races per fixture across the whole of the year.

Further information can be found here

https://www.britishhorseracing.com/press_releases/2024-fixture-list-delivers-innovation-aimed-at-growing-british-racing/

2. +1/+2

The option to run horses that are 1lb or 2lb above a race's published rating band remains unavailable in Class 5 handicaps.

3. National Hunt Flat Races

A reminder that changes have been made which mean that:

- A horse may only run in 3 NHF races, other than in a Pattern Race as the fourth and fifth run
- A six-year-old will not be eligible to run in NHF races after the end of the season, i.e. 28th April onwards.

Overall

1. Division Thresholds

The 2024 maximum prize money threshold for races dividing will be:

- £15,000 at Core Flat and Jump Fixtures (other than NHF races which will be £6,000)
- £15,000 at Premier Jump fixture
- £20,000 at Premier Flat fixtures

At Core fixtures, racecourses can opt out of dividing races with prize money greater than £12,000. Should a racecourse take this option, it would apply for all such races at that venue within the relevant Programme Book.

2. Blank Races

A number of blank races will be left in the programme, which will be programmed nearer to the race date, so that the latest horse population requirements can be taken into account.

Race details will be confirmed approximately two weeks ahead of the fixture. A list of these races will be published on Racing Admin.

3. Cancellation of Races

Any Class 4-6 Handicap on the Flat or 4-5 Handicap over Jumps that receives three or fewer declarations will be cancelled, subject to a minimum of at least six races remaining on the card.

Where a fixture only has six races, a deletion can still occur if a Class 3 or below has at least 12 declared runners and therefore a division of two races of at least six + can be created.

4. Programme Book 3 Schedule

Programme Book 3 will run from 24 June – 15 September. The first set of races (24 June – 14 July) will be available online on 1 May, followed by the rest of the programme on 16 May.

12th February 2024

Programme Book 2 Early Index

The early index for the remainder of Programme Book 2, covering 22nd April – 23rd June is now available on the [NTF Website](#).

Races from 23 March to 21 April will be published on the Racing Admin system from Monday 12 February.

Races from 22 April to 23 June will be published on the Racing Admin system from Wednesday 21 February.

Aintree Grand National 2024 - Medication Declaration Requirements

Trainers who have horses entered in the 2024 Aintree Grand National should have received an email with a letter and guide from James Given, Director of Equine Regulation, Safety and Welfare at the BHA, outlining the procedures for submitting medical information for horses entered in this race. The letter and guidance can also be found on the [NTF Website](#).

As with last year, the relevant medical and veterinary information must be submitted using the Equine MediRecord (EMR) online system. Trainers will receive an email from EMR by Wednesday 7 February with login details and a video user guide.

The EMR team will be available to assist with this process and to answer any questions. You can reach them using the contact information below:

Email: info@equinemedirecord.com

Phone (UK): +44 (0) 7469 131861

Phone (IRE): +353 (0) 86 409 2584

Cheltenham Festival Medical Declarations

Trainers who have entered a horse at the 2024 Cheltenham Festival or have previously entered a horse at The Festival over the last three years should have received an email from the BHA outlining the procedures for submitting medical records for horses entered at the 2024 Cheltenham Festival. The full letter to trainers can be found [here](#)

The only difference to last year's process is that medical records will need to be submitted via the Equine MediRecords (EMR) online system. If you have already entered a horse in a race that has closed for this year's Festival, you will have received an email from EMR with your

login details and a video user guide. If you plan to enter a horse in a race that is not yet closed, you will be contacted by EMR on or shortly after the entry closing date.

The EMR team will be available to assist with this process and to answer any questions. You can reach them using the contact information below:

Email: info@equinemedirecords.com Phone (UK): +44 (0) 7469 131861

1st February 2024

Programme Book 2 Schedule

The early index for races from 23rd March to 21st April are now available to [download](#) from the NTF Website. Weatherbys will publish the online programme book (23rd March to 21st April) on Monday 12th February. The early index for 22nd April to 23rd June will be available next week on the NTF website. Weatherbys will publish the online programme book (22nd April to 23rd June) on Wednesday 21st February. The hard copy of PB2 will be available from the beginning of March

Cheltenham Festival Medical Declarations

Trainers who have entered a horse at the 2024 Cheltenham Festival or have previously entered a horse at The Festival over the last three years should have received an email from the BHA outlining the procedures for submitting medical records for horses entered at the 2024 Cheltenham Festival. The full letter to trainers can be found [here](#)

The only difference to last year's process is that medical records will need to be submitted via the Equine MediRecords (EMR) online system. If you have already entered a horse in a race that has closed for this year's Festival, you will have received an email from EMR with your login details and a video user guide. If you plan to enter a horse in a race that is not yet closed, you will be contacted by EMR on or shortly after the entry closing date.

The EMR team will be available to assist with this process and to answer any questions. You can reach them using the contact information below:

Email: info@equinemedirecords.com Phone (UK): +44 (0) 7469 131861

Sunday Evening Racing

The third fixture of the six-fixture pilot of Sunday evening fixtures is scheduled to take place this Sunday, 4th February 2024 at Newcastle.

Trainers are reminded that a guide to the additional payments was sent out on Thursday 21 December. It is available [here](#) and includes:

- Summary of process for payments to be made from racecourses to trainers and how they

should be passed on.

- Confirmation of the agreement regarding (unpaid) time off to be granted on at least one evening of the three following the Sunday evening worked, if it was off rota.

- Clarification that existing Sunday afternoon arrangements remain in place and that the above are in addition to these rather than in place of them.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dawn Bacchus at d.bacchus@racehorsetrainers.org

We would also like to confirm that we will be surveying members for feedback on the six fixture trial of Sunday evenings and hope to gather plenty of feedback. The survey will be circulated after the fourth Sunday evening fixture.

26th January 2024

Programme Book 2 Schedule

The BHA has provided the below timetable for the publication of Programme Book 2. We are advised that this timetable has been impacted by the knock-on delays caused by the late publication of the 2024 Fixture List. We have fed back to the Industry Fixtures Committee that this is unsatisfactory from a trainer's perspective and that earlier publication for 2025 is required. The following key dates apply:

Monday 29 January Publication of race index pdf version for races from 23 March to 21 April (this will be circulated via the next edition of the weekly email)

Monday 5 February Publication of race index pdf version for races from 23 March to 21 April (this will also be circulated via the weekly email)

Monday 12 February Publication of races for 23 March – 21 April on Racing Admin system

Wednesday 21 February Publication of races for 22 April – 23 June on Racing Admin system

Wednesday 6 March Hard copies to trainers

18 January 2024 (repeat from 05.01.24)

Many of you will be aware of a number of changes to race planning matters sent by the BHA in their December communication. We felt that it would be helpful to remind trainers of all of these changes and have collated them below.

Programme Book Reverting to Four Versions

2024 will see the Programme Book reverting to four versions (previously three). These will have period dates as follows:

- Programme Book 1: 1 January – 22 March

- Programme Book 2: 23 March – 23 June
- Programme Book 3: 24 June – 15 September

- Programme Book 4: 16 September – 31 December

This is intended to deliver a more consistent volume of races per book and align publication with key dates in the Racing Calendar.

Premier Racedays

2024 will see the introduction of Premier Racedays. These fixtures will be run for at least £250k on the Flat (£225k Sunday) and £200K over Jumps (£180k Sunday). Higher Minimum Values will apply at Premier Racedays, where, in addition, no Flat race will be worth less than £20,000 and no Jump race less than £15,000.

Jump Programme

1. Race volume reduction

As part of plans to improve competitiveness of Jump racing in 2024, 300 races overall will be removed across the whole year, with c.60 of those taken out of PB1.

2. Pattern Changes – Jump Review

The announced changes to the Pattern as part of the Jump Pattern's Review continue to take shape through this season, with the following taking effect in PB1:

- Dipper (Cheltenham) and Altcar (Haydock) Novices' Chases have been removed from the programme
- Grade 2 Towton Novice Chase (Wetherby) now takes place a month earlier (13th Jan) and will be run at 2m3f.
- Peter Marsh Chase (Haydock) is now a Premier Handicap (20th Jan)
- Grade 2 Lightning Novice Chase now takes place at Lingfield (21st Jan)
- Grade 2 International Hurdle now takes place on Cheltenham Trials day (27th Jan)

3. 74-95 Handicaps

In order to meet demand and the current shape of horse population, a small number of 74-95 Novices' Limited Handicap Hurdles have been programmed.

4. National Hunt Flat Races

A reminder that changes have been made to the Rules of Racing which mean that:

- A horse may only run in three NHF races but may have a fourth run in a Listed Race or a Pattern Race and a fifth run in a Pattern Race during the same season as the fourth run.
- 6YOs will only be eligible to run in NHF races from 1st Jan until the end of that Jump season.

Flat Programme

1. Divisions

A trial will take place in PB1 on the All-Weather of dividing at 16 declarations as opposed to 18. This will see divisions at Chelmsford City, Kempton Park, Lingfield Park, Newcastle, Southwell and Wolverhampton instigated at 16+ declarations, with two divisions of 8+, from 1 January – 22 March inclusive. Where a race has 27+ declarations and is the only race eligible to divide, the race will be divided three times.

2. Trial removal of +1/+2 in Class 5 & 6 Flat Handicaps

Following the permanent removal of +1/+2 in Class 5 Jump handicaps, a trial of its removal is being applied to Class 5 & 6 Flat Handicaps in order to assess its impact on the distribution of runners and to support competitiveness.

3. Sunday Evening Floodlits

Six Sunday Evening Floodlit fixtures have been scheduled. These cards will be run for at least £145,000, made up of Class 3-6 races, with races at Class 4 and below run at least three times the Minimum Value. These fixtures will be programmed to finish at 20:30, with 7 programmed races and the ability to divide to 8.

4. Removal of March Flat Break

The March Flat Code break that had previously fallen the week after Cheltenham will not take place in 2024 and five Floodlit fixtures will be scheduled this week Monday-Friday. The first two of those fixtures (Monday 18 and Tuesday 19) will be run as rider restricted fixtures.

5. AW Championships

There will no longer be Fast-Track Qualifiers, but horses will still have to have run a minimum of three times during the AW season; normal elimination rules will apply in the finals. Two trial days will be run with races mirroring Finals Day. These will be staged at Newcastle on 1 January and Lingfield Park on 1 March.

6. Re-ordering races at the declaration stage

A trial will be staged at All-Weather fixtures between January and March which will allow races to be re-ordered at the declaration stage with the aim of maximising revenue streams. No race will be moved by more than 1 hour 10 minutes from its originally published time. The trial will only take place at meetings with no Class 1 or Class 2 races.

Overall

1. Division Thresholds

The 2024 maximum prize money threshold for races dividing will be:

- £15,000 at Core Flat and Jump fixtures (other than NHF races which will be £6,000)
- £15,000 at Premier Jump fixtures
- £20,000 at Premier Flat fixtures

Racecourses can opt out of dividing races to £15,000 at Core fixtures only, on a per Programme Book basis. Should they do this then the maximum prize money threshold for races dividing will be £12,000 (Remains at £6,000 for Jump NHF).

2. Blank Races

A number of blank races will be left in the programme, which will be updated nearer to the race date. Race details will be confirmed approximately two weeks ahead of the fixture. A list of these races will be published on NRAS.

3. Cancellation of Races

Any Class 4-6 Handicap on the Flat or 4-5 Handicap over Jumps that receives three or fewer declarations will be cancelled, subject to a minimum of at least 6 races remaining on the card.

4. Early Closing Races

Where an early closing race is abandoned at the original venue and is subsequently re-scheduled and transferred to a new venue, other than in exceptional circumstances, entries will be deleted, and the race will be re-opened. If such a race is a handicap, weights will be re-published based on those new entries, ensuring that all runners are running off their latest mark. If the race is re-scheduled at the same venue, it may be re-opened if it is considered there is a significant delay between the new and original date.

5 January 2024

Renew Internet Access with France Galop

Trainers are now able to re-register with France Galop ahead of the 2024 season. In order to do this, trainers will need to log in to the France Galop website www.france-galop.com Click on Entraineur/Coach and then click on "Renouvellement d'Access internet/Internet Access Renewal". Trainers will need to check your details and then pay by debit/credit card.

While completing this it is recommended to check any possible French Classic entries for 2024 in your stable are up to date with all their vaccinations as the French Classics close in mid-February. Under the new rules issued by France-Galop they are allowed to refuse an entry if the vaccinations are not on their system.
