



## NTF WEEKLY – 3 APRIL 2018

### **Grand National schooling fences ready from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Special Grand National schooling fences, located at four venues in Britain and Ireland, will be available for use from tomorrow, Monday, April 2.

The fences are for any trainer to school horses entered in the three races run over the Grand National fences at the Randox Health Grand National Festival at Aintree – the £1-million Randox Health Grand National (Saturday, April 14), the £140,000 Randox Health Topham Handicap Chase (Friday, April 13) and the £45,000 Randox Health Foxhunters' Chase (Thursday, April 12).

The schooling fences have been prepared by Aintree's groundstaff and are situated at David Pipe's yard on the Devon/Somerset border, at The Jockey Club's Lambourn Gallops, at the Malton Schooling Grounds and at the Curragh Training Grounds in Ireland.

Aintree Clerk of the Course Andrew Tulloch commented: "With just under two weeks to go until the Randox Health Grand National Festival, we are pleased to once again offer Aintree-style schooling fences at four different venues across Britain and Ireland. The schooling fences have proved useful for trainers preparing horses for any of the three races over the Grand National fences at the Randox Health Grand National Festival. I would like to thank everyone involved at the four venues for their help, which enables Aintree to offer this very valuable facility."

### **Statutory payments change in April**

The rate of Statutory Sick Pay increases to £92.05 per week from 6th April.

The rate of Statutory Maternity Pay, Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay all increase from 1st April 2017 to £145.18.

The Lower Earning Level increases to £116 per week.

### **Changes to BHA General Instructions**

The BHA General Instructions (BHAGIs) sit separately to the rules and dictate operational procedures, particularly on racecourses. We have highlighted below some recent changes that of special interest. The second is noteworthy following a recent high profile disciplinary

case. The last will be welcomed by trainers who receive warnings of breaches of the Owners' Sponsorship Code due to ambush sponsorship by race sponsors. Although it is important for trainers and their travelling staff to understand and abide by the requirements of the Code, we have told the BHA racecourses must take more responsibility for controlling the action of race sponsors.

### **Removal of Hurdles due to Low Sun**

If it becomes necessary to bypass a flight or flights of hurdles due to low sun in a hurdle race that precedes a NH Flat Race, a flight or flights of hurdles may be removed so runners can run between the wings instead of following the by-pass route as indicated on the racecourse map. This will only happen when there is sufficient time for the ground to be reinstated and with the permission of the Stewards.

### **Retention of CCTV Footage**

On a number of occasions recently racecourses have been asked for their respective footage and found not to have retained it for the required period. As a result the BHA has updated the General Instructions so CCTV systems must be in operation in the Racecourse Stables (BHAGI 7.1) and the Weighing Room (BHAGI 8.3) and be retained for a minimum of 60 days and footage from the Weighing Room for a minimum of 28 days.

### **Greater Clarity for Race Sponsored Attendants Clothing**

Whenever attendants' clothing is going to be provided by the race sponsors it should be included in or added to the race conditions. If unable to add to the race conditions because it is past the 'post published changes' time, trainers with runners at the meeting/race (as applicable) must be advised directly.

The only two meetings where the acceptance of attendants' clothing is compulsory are the Aintree Grand National Festival and the Epsom Derby Festival. At all other meetings where attendants' clothing is provided racecourses must ensure that staff are fully aware that accepting and wearing the clothing is not mandatory and that they should not accept any clothing unless they are carrying another form of sponsorship relating to their owner/yard.

### **Help shape future Licence Criteria**

A review of Trainer licensing is underway and the BHA is asking for your help to shape the licensing criteria.

You should have received an email from the review team requesting your feedback on the content and presentation of the current Trainers licensing criteria. At present, this information is set out in a document called ["Applications for a Licence to Train - Guidance Notes"](#)

You can complete the survey form online at this [link](#)

This form is anonymous, your name will not be requested. The BHA will use the data collected to improve the format and content of the criteria. If upon completing this questionnaire, you would like to discuss this matter with the BHA in more detail please email them on [licensing@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:licensing@britishhorseracing.com) .

The BHA's objective is to ensure that the Trainer licensing criteria is relevant to the profession and fit for purpose. They also wish to make sure that the criteria are published in a clear, concise and easily accessible manner.

The feedback from the survey will be analysed and recommendations presented to stakeholder groups in Summer 2018 ready for implementation by November 2018. Please submit the survey by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

## Developing your staff – Yard Managers Course

A 2-day management course suitable for anyone supervising staff in a racing yard/ stud farm will run on **May 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**. For further information and an application form, please contact Di Farrell-Thomas at the British Racing School on 01638 675907 or email: [Di.Farrell-Thomas@brs.org.uk](mailto:Di.Farrell-Thomas@brs.org.uk)

## Regulation deadlines

- **24<sup>th</sup> March 2018** – £20,000 cap applies to Median Auction Maiden races. See Forthcoming rule changes on BHA Online Rule Book.
- **1<sup>st</sup> April 2018** – mandatory Equine Herpes vaccination to race in France
- **1<sup>st</sup> April 2018** – new racing industry minimum pay rates (see above.)
- **1<sup>st</sup> April 2018** – RIABS weekly contributions rise to £2.62 (from £2.37)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018** – ice or cooling devices cannot be applied to a horse on raceday in the racecourse stables, unless a VO had given dispensation
- **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018** – manipulative therapy no longer allowed in racecourse stables on a raceday
- **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018** – notification of suprachoroidal cyclosporine implants
- **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018** – 3-day stand down for horses withdrawn by stewards on veterinary advice

## NTF 2018 meeting dates

<b>REGION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
North	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Ripon Racecourse
South West	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Taunton Racecourse
East	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Rowley Mile, Newmarket
South East	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Epsom Racecourse
Central South	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Oaksey House, Lambourn
West Midland and Wales	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Wolverhampton before racing
NTF COUNCIL	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	London