

NTF WEEKLY – 12 DECEMBER 2017

Guidance to help avoid a positive test

We know trainers are feeling very vulnerable to the risk of positive dope tests for prohibited substances, given the current spate of disciplinary cases. There is guidance in the veterinary area of the NTF website in the form of a best practice [guidance document](#) and a poster summarising the key points to implement to help avoid contamination or cross contamination within the yard. Trainers should ensure that their staff are aware of good working practices in the yard and when away racing.

The guidance document was updated earlier this year. It is divided into three main areas: contaminated feedstuffs including the BETA NOPS Code; cross contamination; and medication management.

As you know, the rules of racing place strict liability on trainers for the presence of a prohibited substance in a sample from a horse in the trainer's care and control so it is vital that you take all reasonable precautions to avoid a positive test. The Appeal Board's decision upholding the Disciplinary Panel's verdict not to penalise Philip Hobbs for a positive test, confirmed that where a trainer can meet the criteria in the rules (administration not intentional and reasonable precautions taken) there is an incentive for trainer to use the highest standards of stable management. This is why the NTF believes a change in the rules, as mooted by the BHA, is not necessary or desirable.

Counting 14 days before a horse can run

A recent enquiry to the office has prompted us to issue a reminder about the period of time that must elapse before a horse can run for a trainer. The rule was altered about 12 months ago after a disciplinary case in which the method of counting the required 14 days was disputed.

As a result, 14 clear days must elapse and the rule is set out in [Manual B, Schedule 3 paragraph 22.2 and 23.2.](#)

22.2 For the fourteen Clear Days immediately before the day of the race, the horse must have been in the care of and trained by a Person who

22.2.1 holds a licence to train for flat races which is granted by the Authority, or

22.2.2 if the horse is trained outside Great Britain, is duly qualified as a Trainer in the country where the horse is trained.

This means that if the horse arrives on Day 1, it cannot run until Day 16.

ROA Owners Jackpot races in January 2018

Below is the list of Owners Jackpot races scheduled for January 2018. As usual, to qualify, horses need to be owned by ROA members. In a racing partnership, horses qualify if 51% of the ownership are ROA members. For horses owned by a syndicate, over half of the syndicators need to be members of the ROA. Full terms can be found at roa.co.uk/jackpot

January 3	Ludlow	3m Class 4 5yo+ 0-105 'Hands and Heels' Handicap Chase
January 11	Leicester	2m Class 4 4yo+ Novices Hurdle
January 16	Ayr	3m3f Class 4 5yo+ 0-120 Handicap Chase
January 22	Fakenham	2m5f Class 5 5yo+ 0-100 Handicap Chase
January 29	Hereford	2m Class 4 5yo+ Beginners' Chase

Dispatch of NTF Racing Diary and Metal Badges

Your 2018 metal badges will be sent out next week. Please would anyone who has not already filled in the online form to update details and do so as soon as possible at this [link](#). Please make a special note to open your post from the NTF over the coming weeks to make sure you have your badges when you need them in the New Year.

The scheduled dispatch of the diaries has been affected by the snow and ice but they are being sent by the publishers and should be with you early next week.

Managing this year's Christmas working days

This year Christmas Day falls on a Monday, making the bank holidays for the Christmas period Monday 25th December and Tuesday 26th December. Similarly New Year's Day falls on a Monday so there are no substituted Bank holidays.

There isn't any right for employees to take the actual bank holidays off provided employees are receiving their correct amount of total days off, so either 30, 32 or 34 days (depending on length of service) if full time for a whole year and pro rata for part time or a part year. If an employee is on rota on Christmas Day itself or New Year's Day, the employee would not be entitled to any additional holiday or time off as that is all factored into the 30/32/34 days.

Date of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

We are delighted to confirm that the NTF's 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd February at the Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ED. This year we have booked the fabulous Waterloo Room, with its ornate decoration and vast windows.

As well as the standard AGM business, the winners of the inaugural Lycetts Team Champion Award will be announced and prizes presented.

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 1lb 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.
- **21st November 2017** – notification of specified wind surgeries may be made on the Racing Admin website. Mandatory notification for any horse having its first run following surgery from 19th January 2018.
- **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.