

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE –18 AUGUST 2023 – Issue No. 1353

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Small/Medium Trainer meetings with the BHA

As shared in recent weeks, meetings between the BHA and small/medium sized trainers are scheduled as below:

Worcester - 22 August 2pm

York - 24 August 11am

Kempton Park - 30 August 3pm

Given the lack of interest in the Ayr session, we have decided to cancel but there will be an opportunity to meet with Julie Harrington less formally at the Ayr meeting on 21 September. We will contact the trainers who had signed up for Ayr directly to arrange this, should they wish to do so.

We have also endeavoured to arrange a meeting in the Southwest but it has not been possible to arrange logistically. We will include this subject as an agenda item at our Southwest regional meeting on 16 September but without Julie Harrington being able to attend. Julie has, however, communicated that she will be available at Salisbury on 7 September should any trainers wish to speak to her. Trainers may also wish to consider signing up for Worcester on 22 August as an alternative although we recognise that this would involve a lot of travel.

Should you wish to attend any of these sessions, please sign up [HERE](#)

RACE PLANNING

FRANCE GALOP - Amendment of rules of racing Disqualification following whip abuse

From 1 September 2023, horses will be disqualified when their jockeys use the whip nine times or more. This means the horse will be immediately excluded from the finishing order and the decision will be announced before bets on the race concerned are paid out.

This new rule is part of the amendments to the rules of racing that were adopted by the France Galop Committee on 12 June 2023 and subsequently approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Use of the Whip updated rule from the 1st of September

ART. 171 Use of the whip

- 1. Only models approved by the steward from France Galop and published in the official French rule book can be used in public races.*
- 2. Any struck of the whip will be considered effective over the whole race and from the time the jockey will not hold the reins with both ends.*
- 3. FG's stewards can sanction either by a 75 to 800 euro fine, or a riding ban, any jockey who at any part of the race, will use the whip with his elbow higher than the line of the shoulder.*
- 4. FG's stewards can sanction, either by a fine, or a riding ban, any jockeys who has used his whip in an abusive way. They must also disqualify the horse whom the jockey has used his whip clearly in an abusive way above the double numbers of strikes authorised by FG's stewards.*

The object of the modification is to precise the use of the whip and include the disqualification of the horse.

The aim of this rule is to further strengthen deterrence against whip abuse, with the allowed number of whip strokes having been reduced to 4 on 1 May 2023.

Paris, Thursday 10 August

EMPLOYMENT

Inductions

Carrying out an induction with new employees is important in many ways – the process welcomes the employee, helps you find out more about the employee and it is the opportunity for you to explain the important elements of the job and company rules and expectations within the role. In these times of rising insurance premiums, it can also be a key factor in helping avoid or defend a personal injury claim from an employee as in a good induction the employer will have explained practices and procedures, for example ensuring the employee understands good manual handling practices. The [new employee area](#) of the NTF website contains templates and more information and we have a new [podcast](#) also available for members on our website which is a brief introduction to inductions. For further help with your induction process please contact [Dawn](#) at the NTF office.

Increase in fines for employing illegal workers

Fines for business that knowingly employ illegal migrants are set to triple from the start of 2024 – fines for a first time offence will rise from £15,000 to £45,000 and fines for repeat offenders will rise from £20,000 to £60,000. It is important to check the identity and right to work of anyone who starts work for you – there is information in chapter 1 of the [NTF employment guide](#) and checking services on the Government website including <https://www.gov.uk/check-job-applicant-right-to-work>

ACAS – FREE WEBINARS

Let's talk about menopause at work

A poll by the Fawcett Society reported that a quarter of employees currently experiencing the menopause said their experience has made them more likely to leave the workforce before retirement.

Join Acas for this webinar where we will discuss the importance of supporting those experiencing the menopause including an employer's legal responsibilities.

Register your place:

[Friday 8 September, 10am to 11am](#)

[Thursday 14 September, 2pm to 3pm](#)

Sickness absence: Supporting your staff

Supporting your staff and effectively managing sickness and the return-to-work process, could help to reduce sickness absences in your workplace.

Join Acas on this webinar about managing sickness absence successfully where we will cover; types of absence, supporting staff, reducing absences, long COVID and return to work approaches.

Register your place:

[Tuesday 12 September, 2pm to 3pm](#)

[Friday 22 September, 10am to 11am](#)