

RULE BOOK

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A. THE ORGANISING RACE COMMITTEE

1. Racetracks must be double roped between the track and the public area and ropes should be used to ensure a loose horse does not have access to the public area if it unseats its driver/rider. Small white pegs should be used to mark the inside of the track. Stewards to check that the tracks are safe and that the posts are correctly placed, bearing in mind the safety of the public, horses and drivers at all times.
2. The lorry park must be roped off from the public area.
3. First aid cover and a vet must always be present. Public liability insurance for £1 million or more should be displayed in the secretary's box
4. A microphone with loudspeakers will be used to make any announcements before each race. The organising committee will not be obliged to make any other announcements. If a competitor fails to be present in the line-up after the race has come under starters orders, the race will continue, and the competitor will be banned from that race.
5. It is the responsibility of the organising committee to ensure number cloths are available at least 3 hours before the day's racing starts.
6. Committees to check, prior to their race day, that the vet is willing to carry out a drug test on the Race Day and to notify the Secretary if they are willing/unwilling to do a drugs test 72 hours before the race date.
7. **Any** race meetings that run a Free-for-all will run straight Grade A races
8. Race committees are responsible for replacing the white pegs that are knocked over during any of the races on the race day.
9. No prize money will be given for Nursery races.
10. All prize money should be printed on the programme. The winning heat money must be a minimum of £20 and any prize money should be more than the entrance fee for that particular race.
11. A written undertaking will be required from the winner of any perpetual trophy to return it to the organising committee in a satisfactory condition, prior to the race meeting concerned. All cups must be signed for by the owner/trainer of the winning horse.
12. No winner or placed horse who has won prize money on the race day can take part in a consolation race.



13. The organising committee reserve the right to make any alterations in the programme that may be deemed necessary, and to reduce the value of the prize money for any event in the case of insufficient entries. Any reduction in prize money must be announced before the said race.

14. The organising committee reserve the right to cancel or postpone the races in respect of inclement weather without or in any way compensating any competitor/potential attendee for such cancellation or postponement.

15. The promoters of each race meeting will not, under any circumstances, accept responsibility for injury or accident sustained by any person who attends the meeting. The horse's owner will be liable for any accident which may arise which concerns their horse and it is the horse owner's sole responsibility.

16. Affiliation fees must be paid by all committees to Wales & Border Harness Racing Ltd within one month of the date of the race. If the event is cancelled due to inclement weather this membership fee will still be payable. Move rule 20

17. Each race committee has the right to refuse entry or evict any person or persons from their event.

18. Prize money must be withheld for any horse that has been drug tested. The prize money will be paid when/if a negative test is provided by the relevant laboratory who Wales & Border Harness Racing Ltd have instructed to do the tests.

19. Priority will be given to the highest-grade horses when considering entries for a Free for all race.

20. Race committees must apply, in writing to the Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd secretary by 31st January of the preferred date for their race meeting every year. The race committee's annual membership payment must be enclosed with the race date application.



B. HORSE OWNERS

1. All horses must be Stagbi registered. New horses must also be registered with Wales and Border Harness Racing LTD. They must be micro chipped, and horses must be made available for inspection. All winners and placed horses will have their microchips scanned before leaving the racetrack.
2. Change of ownership of a horse or trainer must be reported to the Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd secretary within 7 days of the transfer of ownership. The horse will not be allowed to run at a race meeting until the Secretary has been notified of the change in ownership
3. All owners, trainers, drivers and riders must be paid up members of Wales and Border Harness Racing LTD. Owners must be 16 years or over and all riders/drivers in a race other than junior Race must be 16 years or over.
4. Horse owners that have raced with British Harness and apply to become members of Wales and Border Harness Racing LTD will be subject to the same balloting system as referred to under 16 below.
5. Owners, trainers and drivers agree to abide by Wales and Border Harness Racing LTD Rules and agree to this by signing the application registration form each year.
6. All Horses that attend a Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd event must be up to date with their flu vaccinations.
7. Passports must ALWAYS be carried with horses. Passports will be stamped with a Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd stamp and Flu vaccinations check at the first meeting of the season that the horse runs at. Passports must be in the correct owner's name. Failure to present your horse's passport will result in the horse not being allowed to run.
8. Winning cups must be returned prior to relevant race meetings or owners may incur a penalty.
9. Any person banned from racing with British Harness or any other racing organisation will not be allowed to become a member of Wales and Border Harness Racing LTD
10. Registered length of whips to be a maximum riding 2`6``, maximum driving 4`6`` overall. Misuse or excessive use of the whip to be penalised. Drivers are always to



hold the reins in 2 hands. Drivers must not release reins to use the whip except for ridden horses when jockeys may release reins to one hand.

11. Whipping is restricted to an action which ensures the whip is not raised above shoulder height of the driver or rider. The whip may only be used a maximum of 6 times on horse or equipment, (Sulky, tack, number cloth etc) up the home straight. Drivers must give the horse time to respond to the whip.

12. All whips must be dark in colour.

13. Head collars must be removed prior to racing.

14. All horses must wear number clothes when warming up on the track.

15. White pegs must not be abused by drivers. Constant abuse of the white pegs will incur a fine for the driver of that horse.

16. Horse owners, trainers, drivers and riders will need to apply to become a member of Wales and Border harness Racing Ltd. The full membership fee must be enclosed with the application. The request to become a member will be approved/rejected by the Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd Ballot panel. The owner will be notified within 28 days of the result of the application. If any application for membership is unsuccessful, the membership fee will be refunded. Your membership has to be approved before you can compete with Wales & Border Harness Racing Ltd

17. All horses are required to register with Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd. The full registration fees are to be enclosed with the registration form. Your application will be approved/rejected by the Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd Ballot panel. You will be notified within 28 days of the results of your registration application. If your application was unsuccessful, the registration fee will be refunded in full. Your horse registration will have to be approved before the horse can compete with Wales & Border Harness Racing Ltd.



C. ENTRIES

1. All horses must be entered for any event at least 7 days prior to race day. Non-compliance with this will result in horses not being allowed to run. Owners must return perpetual cups 7 days prior to race meetings.
2. All horse should be declared half hour before the start of the race meeting. All horses must be declared with the race secretary on the day.
3. All horses to run as handicapped on the card except for penalties received due to changes since the last race meeting which are not recorded as the race card had been sent to print.
4. All races to be either all driven horses or all ridden races, except for Nursery and Junior races which may be mixed.
5. No horse to be withdrawn after declaration from any races without permission of Wales and Border Harness Racing LTD stewards or a valid certificate from the course veterinary officer.



D. STARTING RACES

- 1.** All questions as to the start (e.g. standing start, vehicle gate start/no vehicle) to be at the discretion of the starting stewards. Any horse not on their given mark will be disqualified. All horses must come through the race day start on their given positions/draw. Drivers must adhere to their draws. Failure to do this may result in disqualification and/or fine.
- 2.** If a horse breaks at the start of the race and the race is stopped, then that horse will be made to run on the outside at the restart, subject to the discretion of the starting stewards.
- 3.** The starting steward on the gate will be responsible for helping drivers/riders to start in the correct positions. It is the responsibility of the race day stewards on the racetrack to disqualify horses who are through their mark and not the gate steward.
- 4.** Any driven race must not have more than 9 horses in any race and ridden races must not have more than 12 horses in any given race.
- 5.** On a track where the stewards are in unanimous agreement that it is a suitable track, 5 horses may be allowed to start on the gate. For any tracks only 4 horses will be allowed are to start on the gate.
- 6.** The starter on the start car must be a member of a race committee.



E. CONDUCT OF RACES

- 1.** Any trotting/pacing horse persistently galloping will be disqualified and must be pulled out of the race at the first safe opportunity.
- 2.** If a horse falls during a race and either the shoulder or hind quarters touches the ground the horse will not be allowed to re-run on that day.
- 3.** If a race is re-run following a fall, then drivers/horses must remain the same as when they were under starter's orders the first time, subject to the steward's discretion or medical advice.
- 4.** If a horse qualifies for the final it cannot run in another race that day save for the final.
- 5.** Drivers who have 2 or more horses in the finals must let the secretary and stewards know which horse they will be driving before the final so the public and bookmakers are aware.
- 6.** Drivers/riders and horses not running to their full potential will have runs taken off them and could be banned for up to 4 weeks.
- 7.** If any owner runs a horse under false pretences, they will be liable to a ban.
- 8.** Animal welfare will always be observed on race day on and off the track. Any mistreatment of horses could result in fines or a ban

F. JUDGES DECISIONS AND STEWARDS MEETINGS- FINES/BANS

- 1.** The decision of the judges in all races and that of the organising committee and Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd Stewards, will be final and binding. The stewards will meet at the end of each race if they feel appropriate, and at the mid race break time to discuss any issue arising. Any incident occurring in the FINALS will be dealt with at the end of the race meeting.
- 2.** Any objections are to be put in writing on the Wales & Border Harness Racing Ltd complaints form immediately after the race concerned, with a deposit of £10 payable to the secretary. Any objections regarding the placing's can be made verbally to the race commentator immediately, in a respectful manner, followed in writing with a £10 deposit within 15 minutes of the original verbal complaint.
- 3.** In the event of being fined, the fine must be paid within 14 days. Failure to do this will result in the driver/horse not being allowed to race.
- 4.** Appropriate fines or other disciplinary action may be taken, if thought fit, for other offences other than those listed above.
- 5.** A race result must not be announced, until the stewards and judges are satisfied with the result. The camera, when available, must be used in all close finishes. The camera is only to be viewed by judges and officials including the Horse Owners` Chairman. The commentator is only to move onto the next races after liaising with his "LINK STEWARD".
- 6.** Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd officials reserve the right to ban or disqualify any owner/trainer/driver/rider for persistent infringement of any of these rules.
- 7.** Owners/trainers/drivers/riders/public are not allowed to approach the stewards with complaints on the racetrack. The complaint procedures must be followed and a failure to do this may result in a ban/additional fine,
- 8.** Only authorised persons will be allowed onto the track at any time unless in an emergency or in an under 16 race. The authorised persons will be allowed onto the racetrack will be subject to the steward's discretion.
- 9.** Stewards will have 7 days to review video footage and evidence before making a decision on any fine/ban/disqualification.
- 10.** Stewards reports will be put in writing in the secretary's box for members to view at the next race meeting.

G. DRUG TESTING

1. Random drug testing may take place and at any time. If a test proves negative it will be paid for by the Association. If a drug test shows a positive result, the horse owner will be responsible for the payment of the drugs test.
2. If an owner/trainer refuses a drug test, or a drug test proves positive then the person/persons responsible will be investigated and may incur the maximum of a lifetime ban. The horse in question will be suspended while the investigation takes place.
3. A drug test can either be blood or urine and can take place at any time.
4. When a drug test is taking place, only one person responsible for the horse can be present along with the Association representatives and the veterinary surgeon.
5. A prohibited substance is defined as any substance in accordance with the BHA guidelines. These can be found at:
<http://rules.britishhorseracing.com/#!/book/34/chapter/s3564-prohibited-list-code/content>, a hard copy can also be found at the secretary box on race day.
6. A code of conduct for the carrying out of tests is to be kept with the testing kits and will be followed whenever testing is taking place.



H. SAFETY

- 1.** All riders/ drivers must wear protective headgear with a chin strap, colours, white trousers and suitable footwear with a heel. Appropriate body protectors are compulsory. A steward, at any time, may check to ensure riders/drivers are wearing all appropriate safety items.
- 2.** Appropriate safety items must be worn while riding or driving a horse on or off the track on race day.
- 3.** All sulkies must be fitted with disc wheels and conform to the Associations safety standards.
- 4.** Any horse considered to be a danger to the public will not be allowed on the racetrack. Any horse considered a danger to other competitors may be made to run off the back or referred to run in the Nursery race. It will be left to the starters or stewards' discretion to place horses in a safe starting position and whether they feel a horse is a danger to the public/competitor.
- 5.** Any driver/rider who has incurred an injury or has suffered serious illness must, in the interest of personal and public safety, seek permission, and if appropriate medical permission, prior to a race meeting, from the committee (Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd stewards) to drive/ride in any race.
- 6.** Horses should always be correctly shod and grass nailed on all grass tracks



J. GENERAL

- 1.** Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd officials, together with the organising committee reserve the right to refuse entry or withhold prizes and disqualify a competitor at any time, either for jostling, foul running, riding and driving, crossing, blatant pulling or for any other act which may have unduly interfered with the process or result in any race. For their conversation or conduct, or if any way it is shown that they entered under a false name or has been guilty of any false pretences.
- 2.** Nursery horses can only progress into another class at the steward's discretion. Any unraced horse must start racing in the Nursery class. Once a Nursery horse has qualified for the Baby Novice race that horse can no longer race in the Nursery race unless driven by a Novice driver or under steward's instruction.
- 3.** If a horse is not seen to be running true to its form in any race, it will be up to the stewards to allow that horse to return to the Nursery class.
- 4.** No betting on Nursery or Junior races.
- 5.** Once a horse comes under starters orders, all bets will stand.
- 6.** People travelling in the back of Lorries and not paying to get into the race meetings will be dealt with accordingly and may be refused entry or incur an additional financial penalty.
- 7.** It is recommended that all horse owners/handlers have their own public liability insurance cover.
- 8.** New junior drivers/riders must prove to the stewards before a race that they can control the horse. Juniors must be 10 years or older.
- 9.** Any new rider/driver must prove to the stewards, before racing that they can control the horse.

APPENDIX 1
AUTOMATIC FINES

		Penalty
1	. Withdrawing a horse after declaration without a vet's certificate	£20.00
2	Racing or warming up without a number cloth and without wearing appropriate safety items	£10.00
3	Racing without registered racing colours and white trousers	£10.00
4	Wrong length or colour whips	£20.00
5	In excess of 6 whip strokes, on either the horse or equipment, on the home straight	1 st offence £25.00 2 nd offence £30.00- & 2-week whip ban 3 rd offence £50.00 and ban for up to 28 days.
6	Misuse of the whip throughout the race will incur a fine, ban or both	£25.00
7	Loss of number cloth	£10.00
8	Dangerous driving will incur a fine and/or disqualification or a ban from the race	£25.00
9	Disqualified horses not pulling out when told to do so	£20.00
10	Trailing reins or driver with their legs not in	£10.00



	footrests during the race	
11	Drivers/Riders smoking on the racetrack	£10.00
12	Foul or abusive language on or off the track directed at stewards, officials or fellow competitors	
13	For the persistent infringements of the rules, the penalty will be increased at the steward's discretion and could include a ban/disqualification.	
14	These rules will be reviewed annually or at such other time at the discretion of the stewards	

Chair of Wales and Border Harness Racing Ltd.

Sign:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John', is written below the 'Sign:' label.

Date: 01/04/2020