



# Regulations For Pony Races

Season 2026

## FOREWORD

Pony Racing is held under the Regulation of the Pony Racing Authority [PRA] and the allocation, cancellation and alteration of Pony Races is authorised at the discretion of the British Horseracing Authority and Pony Racing Authority. The Pony Racing Authority will administer Pony Racing under these Regulations and will exercise control over those taking part in the sport.

These Regulations which are correct at the time of going to print and may be subject to change by announcement on [www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk](http://www.ponyracingauthority.co.uk), relate to any Pony Racing Authority recognised Pony Races with differences in Regulation colour coded as follows:

All Pony Racing Authority Recognised Pony Races

**Racecourse Series Pony Races only**

**Point-to-Point Pony Races only**

Changes to Regulations for the current season appear in bold. Regulations that have been deleted no longer appear. Changes to definitions have not been highlighted.

In all instances the initials PRA refer to the Pony Racing Authority and the Stewards and Officials who have been appointed and publicised for each event by the host organisation. All such individuals are permitted to ensure these Regulations are complied with and have absolute authority from the PRA to act accordingly to ensure compliance and Regulation.

These PRA Regulations apply to PRA Members, Riders, grooms of Ponies, Parents or guardians of Riders, and all persons representing such individuals in connection with PRA pony racing (whether at a race meeting, a PRA Event or otherwise). All such persons are expected to adhere to the PRA Regulations and to all Codes of Conduct and Policies published by the PRA from time to time. All such persons will subject to disciplinary action in the event of a breach of the PRA Regulations.

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## REGULATIONS

### RIDERS

- 1
  - i) Riders must be residents in Great Britain.
  - ii) Riders wishing to participate in Pony Racing must be registered as a Member of the PRA no later than 12 noon on a Friday in order to be eligible to enter and ride the following weekend. PRA membership is annual.
  - iii) Riders must be aged:
    - (a) 11-16 years on 1st January 2026 to compete in Racecourse Series Pony Races.
    - (b) 9-16 years on the day of their first Pony Race of the current season to compete in Point-to-Point Pony Races.
  - iv) Any Rider turning 16 prior to the start of the forthcoming pony racing season may continue to be eligible to pony race until they ride in a Point-to-Point or any professional race.
- 2 No Rider may participate in more than one Pony Race on the same day.
- 3 A Rider may only be entered on one pony per race.
- 4 Any Rider that has ridden a minimum five Point-to-Point and/or Racecourse Series winners since 1st January 2023 may ride a qualified Pony not qualified by themselves that has run in Point-to-Point Pony Races during the current season.
- 5 Riders aged 13 to 16 years who have won or finished placed (1st - 4th) in five or more Pony Races since 1st January 2023 may ride a qualified Pony not qualified by themselves. All Ponies must be qualified by a person eligible to participate in Pony Races.
- 6 Riders competing in 138cm & under races must weigh a minimum 7st 6lbs unless otherwise stated. Riders competing in 148cm & under races must weigh a minimum 8st 3lbs unless otherwise stated. (See individual pony gradings on the website).

7 Riders MUST attend the Official Briefing and Course Walk. Failure to attend may result in the Rider being withdrawn from the race and 10 points deducted from the Pony and Rider. Parents, legal guardians, carers, owners or any other persons are not permitted to participate in the course walk and their participation may result in the disqualification of the Rider from the race.

8 Riders may only compete in the 2026 Racecourse Series Pony Racing Finals on a Pony they have qualified by contributing to its points for the Finals, and have been placed 1st - 4th in at least 2 races, during the current Racecourse Series.

9 Riders must attend the mandatory PRA de-brief at the end of the day. Failure to attend, without prior permission from the PRA Steward for exceptional circumstances, may result in 10 points being deducted from the Pony and Rider.

10 Any Rider that is deemed to have breached PRA Regulations or acted in an inappropriate manner may have up to 10 points deducted from the Pony and Rider at the absolute discretion of the PRA Steward, and/or PRA Board or PRA representative on the day. Any parent / legal guardian / carer / owner that are deemed to have breached PRA Regulations or acted in an inappropriate manner may be fined up to £150 at the absolute discretion of the PRA Steward and/or PRA Board.

11 Riders are not permitted to receive payment for riding in Pony Races. Breach of this Regulation will result in the Rider and Pony having 10 points deducted and the Owner/Parent fined £150.

## PONIES

- 12 All Ponies must be aged between 4 and 20 years on 1st January. Stallions and colts may not be entered. No pony may compete in more than one Pony Race on the same day.
- 13 All Ponies competing must be microchipped. Any Pony found not to be microchipped will not be permitted to run on the day, and future Entries will be declined until the PRA has evidence that the Pony has been microchipped. The Owner of any Pony found not to be microchipped is liable for a £150 fine, which must be paid in full to the PRA before any future Entries are accepted.
- 14 No Pony that has raced under the Rules of any recognised Turf Authority including the Arab Racing Organisation may compete.
- 15 All Ponies must be entered and run under the name listed on its valid passport. Ponies are permitted to use Racecourse Stables on the day of the Pony Race by special arrangement with the racecourse but must be out by 8.30 am on the day of racing and may return to the stables after they have raced with prior permission from the Racecourse.
- 16 All Ponies must be registered with the Chief PRA Steward on the PRA website. All Pony Registrations must be accompanied by a copy of the front page, identification pages and vaccination pages of the Pony's passport to be uploaded to the website. **If the RIDER is racing for the first time in Point-to-Point pony races in their Confined Area only, no height measurement is required for one season unless requested by the PRA.**
  - i) Ponies must be fully registered on the website no later than 12 noon on a Friday in order to be entered so as to run the following weekend.
  - ii) Any changes to the information on the Pony Registration during the course of the season must be notified in writing to the Chief PRA Steward by the Pony's new Owner on purchase or possession of the Pony, and before it first runs for the new owner.
  - iii) Once registered with the PRA, ponies are not permitted to run in any race that is not recognised by the PRA.

17 Each pony will carry the weight relevant to their grade on the Grading System, (see individual pony gradings on the website). The maximum penalty a 138cm & under pony may carry is 9lbs 7lbs and the maximum penalty a 148cm & under pony may carry is 10st 11lbs.

18 Ponies entered do so under the condition that they may be routinely tested for microchipping and/or for prohibited substances in line with procedures within British Horseracing Authority Rules under these Regulations at any time when on site at a host Racecourse or Point-to-Point whether declared to run or not.

19 No Pony shall be eligible to be entered or run in a Pony Race that is stabled in the licensed premises of person holding a permit or licence to train under the Rules of any recognised Turf Authority except in the circumstances of the legal parent or guardian of the rider.

20 In accordance with BHA Rules of Racing, from 1st October 2012 ponies that are tubed will not be allowed to run in Pony Races. The exception is where the tracheostomy took place before 1st October 2012 and the owner is able to produce a certificate, signed by a veterinary surgeon, to this effect.

## PONY HEIGHTS

21 Ponies must measure 138 & under or 148cm & under on the day of the Pony Race, referable to the height restrictions that apply to the race in which the Pony is entered.

22 (i) All Ponies competing in Racecourse Series Pony Races must have a valid Joint Measurement Board (JMB) height measurement.

(ii) Ponies measuring between 126cm & 128 cm, 136cm & 138cm and 146cm & 148cm in height, must have a valid Joint Measurement Board (JMB) height measurement which must be provided when the pony is registered on the PRA website, with the exception of first season riders racing in their Confined Area (see Reg 16).

23 Any Pony may be subject to a formal re-measurement at the request and absolute discretion of the PRA (or, under the terms of its Rules, the JMB) at any time during the Pony Racing season by written notice from either the PRA or JMB and sent to the Owner ("the notification letter"). For the avoidance of doubt it will not be a defence for the Owner to claim that the notification letter was sent to the incorrect address provided that the notification letter was sent to the Owner's address/ email address provided to the PRA on the Pony's Registration. If requested to present a Pony for re-measurement it is the responsibility of the Owner to comply.

24 The Owner is solely responsible for ensuring that the Pony Registration held by the Chief PRA Steward for each Pony owned by the Owner contains accurate information. Accordingly, it is the Owner's responsibility to notify the Chief PRA Steward in writing of all changes (including of address) and other changes of Ownership throughout the Pony Racing season in accordance with Regulation 16(ii). An administration fee of £25 payable to the PRA may be charged at the absolute discretion of the PRA Board for multiple changes.

25 Failure to comply with a notification letter will result in the Pony's disqualification. In the event that a Pony subject to a notification letter has not been presented for any reason whatsoever for remeasurement by the JMB within 20 working days of the date of the notification letter the Pony will automatically be disqualified from all recognised PRA Pony Races and all points accumulated by the rider/s of said pony during that season will be withdrawn.

26 Ponies will be formally re-measured in accordance with the Joint Measurement Board Ltd Rules subject to the absolute requirement under these Regulations that the Owner complies with Regulation

27 For the avoidance of doubt Regulation 25 takes precedence over the Rules of the JMB Ltd .

i) If a pony is found to have been given prohibited substances at the time of it being measured or remeasured, the measurement will be invalidated under the JMB rules. The Owner will be liable for a £150 fee to the PRA in addition to paying the full cost of the JMB Remeasurement.

28 Any Pony that has its JMB Height measurement withdrawn by the JMB or is formally remeasured at the request of the PRA or JMB and subsequently found to be above height with respect to the height restriction applicable to the pony race in which it was entered will be disqualified from that category and the Owner liable for a £150 fee to the PRA in addition to paying the full cost of the JMB Remeasurement. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Pony running in a 138cm race is found to be above that height then it will be entitled to run in 148cm & under races during the current season.

## **ENTRY & QUALIFICATION**

29 Since 1st July 2025 the Pony and Rider as a combination must have been placed:

- (a) First to third in a Racecourse Series Pony Race, or
- (b) First to third in a Point-to-Point Pony Race (excluding Novice Pony Races) and completed 3 Open PRA Pony Races (Point-to-Point or Racecourse Series) since 1st January 2023 or
- (c) Won an Open Pony Club Race and completed 3 PRA Pony Races as in 28b) since 1st January 2023 or
- (d) Passed an accredited PRA/PC Training Day and the rider has completed 3 PRA Open Races and/or Pony Club Open Races since 1st January 2023 or
- (e) Passed a minimum Level 3 Training Day at the British Racing School or National Horseracing College and the rider has completed 3 PRA Open Races and/or Pony Club Open Races since 1st January 2023 or
- (f) Been out with a recognised pack of Hounds, Draghounds or Bloodhounds a minimum four times and fairly hunted or
- (g) Have attended four working Pony Club Rallies, one of which includes riding in an open space or a Pony Racing Rally.
- (h) The Combination of rider and pony have completed 10 PRA Races (including PC Open Races) since 1st January 2023

30 (i) Racecourse Entries shall close at 10:30am on the day of closing  
Point-to-Point entries shall close at 8pm on a Sunday with the exception of those meetings which are staged on any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Where this is the case the details will be advertised accordingly within the race information.  
Failure to enter online before the specified closing date will result in the Entry being declined.

(ii) Entries and payment of may only be made via the PRA website online system.

(iii) Any Pony whose Entry Fee is unpaid shall immediately be prevented from running and future Entries declined until full payment has been received.

(iv) The Pony name on the Entry must match the name on the Passport.

(v) A race may be declared void at the discretion of the organisers if less than six Entries are received by the time Entries close.

(vi) No Pony or rider may be substituted following close of Entries.

(vii) Ponies will accumulate points for finishing placed in Racecourse Series Pony Races with the top 12 qualifying for the 2026 Racecourse Series Pony Racing Finals. In Open Races 10 points will be awarded per win, 7 points for second, 5 points for third and 3 points for fourth. Ponies may only be ridden in The Finals by a Rider that has contributed to its points and has finished placed 1st - 4th in at least 2 races, during the current Racecourse Series. In the event of a tie for points, the Pony finishing highest placed in the most races will be eligible for The Finals.

(viii) Combinations will accumulate points for finishing placed in Point- to-Point Pony Races. 10 points will be awarded per win, 7 points for second, 5 points for third and 3 points for fourth. Points will go towards end of season Championships.

31 Organisers, Officials, Stewards and/or the Board of the PRA may at any time revoke the qualification of a Rider or Pony to race in any or all PRA races.

## EQUIPMENT

- 32 There will be a mandatory tack check for all Ponies and Riders participating on the day.
- 33 Ponies must be turned out with well-fitted and properly maintained saddlery. If in the opinion of the PRA Steward or Organisers a Pony is turned out in badly fitting or unsafe tack it may result in the Pony being withdrawn and prevented from Starting.
- 34 All ponies must wear a bridle or chifney at all times. No ponies to be led in just a headcollar.
- 35 No Pony shall enter the parade ring or run in shoes which have protrusions on the ground surface other than calkins or studs on the hind limited to 3/8" in height. The Owner is responsible for ensuring that their Pony is shod in accordance with the requirements of the PRA Regulations.
- 36 The following are not permitted. For the rider, no head cameras or any recording equipment, jewellery, spurs, watches or whip. For the pony, no bandages, blinkers, ear plugs, eye covers, eye shields, grass reins, hoods, nasal strips, nickel bits, nickel stirrup irons, overreach boots, prickers, sheepskin check pieces, support balance reins, tongue ties or visors.
- 37 Any Rider deemed by the PRA or Organisers to have used their reins in the manner of a whip, or to otherwise strike or encourage a Pony, may be disqualified from the race and have 10 points deducted from them and the Pony they were riding at the time of the offence.
- 38 Racing saddles and race exercise saddles must measure no less than 16" (40.6cm) from front arch to cantle and weigh a minimum 3lbs including saddle, stirrup leathers, stirrup irons, girth and overgirth. Racing saddles must be used with a racing breastplate or breastgirth. Any Rider attempting to weigh with or use any saddle that contravenes PRA Regulations may have 10 points deducted from them and the Pony they are declared to ride on the day and will not be permitted to ride unless weighed out with a saddle that meets the requirement of Regulation 33.
- 39 **Riders must provide their own lead and may not use lead from the host Racecourse or venue. Any Rider unable to make their minimum weight without their own lead may not be permitted to take part.**

40 Saddle savers are not permitted. At the discretion of the PRA and/or Organiser, owners may be requested to remove pads if deemed unnecessary.

41 Footwear must either be correctly fitting racing boots with racing irons or jodhpur boots/riding boots with 'non-racing' irons. A combination of either will not be permitted. All footwear must have a smooth, thin sole and well defined heel (minimum 5mm). Stirrups should be of the correct size to suit the rider's boots. Magnetic stirrups or stirrups with metal or cheese-grater style treads are not allowed.

42 An overgirth is mandatory as is either a running martingale or an Irish martingale. A neckstrap MUST be worn with an Irish martingale.

43 Only bits which meet the approval of a Veterinary Surgeon will be permitted. Hackamore bridles are not permitted.

44 Reins must be stitched to or fastened by a buckle to the bit or attached via a loop. They must not be attached by a billet. Reins must be of a safe and appropriate length and if, in the opinion of the PRA Steward, Official or Organiser, they are deemed too long replacement reins will be requested and / or the pony not permitted to start.

45 Every Pony running shall carry a number cloth provided by the organiser and the Owner is responsible for ensuring it is worn so that the number is clearly visible and is the correct one for the Pony.

46 No form of advertising, branding or sponsorship is permitted on the Pony, its rider or its attendants other than the race sponsor.

## SKULL CAPS

47 (i) No Rider shall be mounted nor shall they ride in any race unless wearing a correctly fitted and fastened skull cap of a patent approved by the PRA. The skull cap must be fastened at all times whilst mounted. The sole responsibility for the wearing of and the serviceable condition of the skull cap, which must not be modified in any way, is that of the parent/legal guardian/nominated representative. Any Rider found to be mounted on any part of the venue not wearing a correctly fitted and fastened skull cap will be disqualified.

(ii) Only skull caps that satisfy all the requirements laid down below are approved for use by a Rider;

It is mandatory for all Members to wear a protective helmet and manufactured to one of the minimum standards listed below.

The hat standards accepted are detailed in the table below:

Hat Standard	Safety Mark
PAS 015 2011 with BSI Kitemark	
VG1 with BSI Kitemark	
Snell E2016 onwards with the official Snell label and number	
ASTM-F1163 2004a onwards with the SEI mark	
AS/NZS 3838, 2006 onwards	

These standards will be subject to review throughout the year.

(iii) Skull caps must not have a chin cup, cradle or draw lace and must be in a serviceable condition. The skullcap must be of the correct size for the individual Rider and may not be modified in any way.

(iv) The chinstrap must pass under the jaw and be attached to the harness by a quick release buckle. Metal hooks are not permitted.

(v) As skull caps are designed for “single impact only” any skull cap which has been subjected to a severe impact or has been worn by a Rider suffering concussion should be replaced.

## **BODY PROTECTORS**

- 48 Body protectors must conform to 2018 BETA Level 3.
- 49 Body Protectors may not be modified in any way and must be in a serviceable condition.
- 50 Body cages or Air Jackets are not permitted.



## PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 51 It is the parent / legal guardian or if applicable nominated representative's sole responsibility to ensure that their child is fit to ride on the day.
- 52 All Riders must be declared by the parent / legal guardian completing the declaration form and returning it to the Point-to-Point Pony Racing Executive by 12 noon on the Friday before the races unless stated otherwise. Notification of a non-runner MUST be provided should the declared runner not be able to attend. Failure to do so will result in a fine.
- 53 It is the responsibility of the Rider / parent / legal guardian / nominated representative and Owner to comply with and abide by PRA Regulations. Failure to do so may result in Entries being declined by the PRA Board and the individual becoming a disqualified person. (Regulations 100 - 103). Providing false or misleading information may result in disqualification of the Pony, Owner and Rider.
- 54 It is the parent / legal guardian / nominated representative and owner's responsibility to ensure the Rider and Pony's equipment meets the specifications required to compete.
- 55 The Parent / legal guardian or nominated representative is responsible for ensuring their Pony is properly saddled when it leaves the parade ring.
- 56 Riders must be in possession of a completed Medical Armband and Medical Record Book (MRB) which must be presented for inspection to the PRA Steward or nominated Official when declaring the Pony to run on the day, and the Medical Armband worn on the arm at all times when mounted. In the event of the Medical Armband or MRB not being available or worn (where applicable) an instant fine of £25 will be imposed on the day and the Rider may not be permitted to take part.
- 57 The welfare and safety of the Rider participating in the Pony Race is the sole responsibility of the parent / legal guardian or nominated representative whilst at the venue and should the Rider fall whilst riding it is their responsibility to present the Rider to the medical officer on duty on the day immediately after the Race/fall.
- 58 Any Rider that has a fall must be passed fit by a Doctor before being able to ride again on the day. In the event of a red entry being made

in the Rider's MRB, the Rider may not compete again in PRA Pony Races until passed fit to do so by way of written confirmation to the PRA from their registered GP that they are fit and able to compete.

(i) An entry may only be made in the MRB by medical personnel or a PRA Official officiating at the fixture, and must be signed and dated on the day of the incident.

59 The parent / legal guardian shall be responsible for paying any fine imposed upon them or their Rider for any breaches of PRA Regulations.

## PONY IDENTIFICATION AND VACCINATION

60 (i) Any change to a Pony's name must be registered with the passport provider of the Pony's original passport.

(ii) No Pony shall be permitted to take part in any PRA recognised Pony Race unless it is:

(a) Accompanied on the day by its current valid Passport

(b) The Pony has been registered with the PRA in accordance with Regulation 16.

(iii) Every Pony since 30.09.2023 must be on strict 6 monthly valid vaccinations, which undeniably relate to that Pony, completed, signed and stamped on each line by a Veterinary Surgeon, who is not the owner or trainer of the animal. It must state that the Pony has received two primary vaccination injections for primary vaccination against Equine Influenza given no less than 21 days and no more than 60 days apart. (Only these first two injections need to have been given before the Pony may compete). In addition, a first booster injection must be given no less than 120 days and no more than 180 days after the second injection of the primary vaccination. Subsequently, booster injections must be given at intervals of no more than 6 months apart commencing after the first booster injection. None of these injections must have been given within the preceding seven days, including the day of the Pony Race. (Check the PRA website for full up to date details of vaccination requirements)

iv) Any pony that is not compliant with Reg 60 will be required to restart their vaccinations before they can be registered with the PRA.

61 (i) A Passport will not be regarded as being completed as required under the PRA Regulations if any record of vaccinations against Equine Influenza is altered in any way. An incorrect entry must be deleted and a new entry made, signed by the Veterinary Surgeon who was responsible for giving the vaccination.

(ii) The owner of any Pony which enters a PRA Pony Race shall be guilty of an offence when:

- That Pony has not been vaccinated as required for which there is a fine of £25.
- The vaccination section of the Passport has not been endorsed as required or the said document is not available for inspection as required for which there is a fine of £25.

(iii) If there is a breach of Regulation 61 (ii) the Pony will not be permitted to run on the day.

(iv) It shall be the responsibility of the Owner to ensure that when any Pony enters the venue on the day of which a PRA Pony Race is held that its Passport is available for inspection at any time whilst it is on that property. It is also the responsibility of the Owner of a Pony to ensure at all times that vaccinations required under the PRA Regulations have been correctly administered and properly entered on the Passport.

## BALLOTING & DECLARATIONS

62 (i) The maximum number of runners in each race will be:

Racecourse Series = 12

Point-to-Point Pony Races = 10

(ii) A random ballot will be drawn by the PRA if the number of Entries exceeds the number of Ponies permitted to run.

(iii) Any balloted Pony and Rider is not guaranteed a run next time Entered.

(iv) Two Reserves will be published and in the event of a Non Runner being declared to the PRA by 09:00 on the day of the race the Reserve(s) will be invited to run.

(v) The following balloting procedure will be adopted, if necessary, when more than 10 entries are received after which a maximum of 10 entries along with 3 nominated reserves will be advertised following the closing deadline as per Regulation 30 (i). At fixtures run on the first weekend of the season, those closest to the venue as per their PRA membership registered post code will be given priority. For the remainder of the season, should a ballot be required, priority will be given in the following order:

1) First time Riders.

2) Those riders who have had the least number of runs

3) Those closest to the venue as per their PRA membership registered post code. A race may be divided at the discretion of the organisers.

(vi) Ponies and Riders must be declared as having arrived at the venue with the PRA Steward or Organiser at the time appointed. Competitors will be informed of this in writing prior to the meeting and failure to Declare by the stipulated time may result in the Rider and Pony being withdrawn.

(vii) All Riders must make themselves known to the organiser on the day at their time of arrival.

## **NON-RUNNERS**

63 (i) If a pony has been entered for a race but is not going to run, the Owner must notify the Chief PRA Steward 3 days prior to the race date. If a pony is to be withdrawn as a non-runner after this time the owner must notify the Chief PRA Steward as soon as possible with the reason. The owner of any pony withdrawn at this stage without good reason will be fined £50.

(ii) Any Pony and / or combination declared to run and announced as a Non-Runner on at least two occasions may have future Entries declined at the discretion of the PRA Board.

(iii) The Owner of a Pony, which has been entered, but is subsequently not going to start, must inform the organisers no later than 5pm the day before the race. Failure to do so will result in the Owner being fined £25 by the PRA.

## **WEIGHING OUT**

64 (i) The Owner is responsible for ensuring that the Pony carries the correct weight in accordance with PRA Regulations and for ensuring that the Pony as named at the time of Entry is the Pony that runs in the race.

(ii) When weighing out the Rider must weigh out with their saddle, including stirrups and stirrup leathers, girth, overgirth, pads, weight cloth and lead if required. The following are not required to weigh out with: skullcap, goggles, breastplate or breastgirth, neck strap, and anything worn on the Pony's legs. When weighing out the number cloth will be excluded from the scale but must be presented to the Clerk of Scales at the time.

(iii) Ponies must be at the course at the time of weighing out.

## **WEIGHING IN**

65 All Riders must present themselves to be weighed by the Clerk of the Scales immediately after the race.

66 (i) Immediately after pulling up, the Riders of the first four Ponies in each race must ride their Ponies to the place appointed for unsaddling.

The Ponies shall remain at the appointed place until ordered to be taken away. The other Riders may dismount within a reasonable distance.

(ii) It shall be a breach of PRA Regulations for a Rider to dismount before reaching a place appointed for that purpose, unless they can satisfy the PRA Steward or Officials that they were justified by the circumstances.

(iii) If a Rider does not present themselves to be weighed in, their Pony shall be disqualified on the day, unless the PRA Steward or Officials are satisfied that the Rider was justified in not doing so by reason of illness, accident or other extraordinary circumstance, that they weighed out at not less than their correct weight and that the proper weight was carried throughout the race.

67 (i) When weighing in a Rider shall include in their weight everything they weighed out with.

(ii) If a Rider weighs in at 2lb or more less than the weight at which they weighed out the Pony shall be disqualified.

68 When Riders have weighed into the satisfaction of the Clerk of the Scales, the Stewards and Officials shall authorise the announcement of "weighed in" provided the Judge has announced and confirmed his decision to the Clerk of the Scales on all placings. After the announcement has been made no alteration shall be made.

## **SADDLING**

69 (i) The Owner/Parent/Legal Guardian is responsible as per Regulation 53. Particular care should be taken to ensure that the full number on the saddle cloth is visible.

(ii) The Starter will report to the PRA Steward or Organiser all cases where he considers a Pony has been improperly saddled.

## **DEAD-HEATS**

70 When Ponies finish in a dead-heat both Ponies and Riders will be deemed to be winners.

## THE RACE

71 The PRA Steward or Official representative in association with the Clerk of the Course and organisers may at any time abandon a race at their discretion.

72 (i) All Ponies running shall be saddled at the appointed place and brought in to the Parade Ring a reasonable time before the signal to mount is given for the race in which they are engaged.

(ii) Under 12's are not permitted access to the Parade Ring, with the exception of Riders.

(iii) If a Pony runs the wrong side of a course marker or flag, the Rider shall turn back and ride the course correctly from such point of the race, or they shall pull up. They shall not otherwise continue in the race or the Pony shall be disqualified on the day and the Rider shall be guilty of an offence.

73 Race distances are approximate and may vary on the day of the race at the discretion of the Organisers.

74 All prizes will be in kind and no prize money is permitted.

75 The Pony and Rider must form a suitable and competent combination on the day of the race. If, at the discretion of the PRA Steward, Organisers or Racecourse Official they fail to comply they may be withdrawn on the day and the PRA may refuse future Entries for the combination.

## THE PONY RACING AUTHORITY BOARD

76 The PRA Board, at the discretion of the British Horseracing Authority, have power to authorise Pony Racing fixtures and fees, to cancel such fixtures and to make any alterations to them from time to time that they consider necessary.

77 The PRA Board have power, at their discretion;

(i) To authorise acceptance of Entries or to instruct that they are to be refused.

- (ii) To authorise the acceptance of Pony Registrations or to instruct that they are to be refused.
- (iii) To authorise the publication of Pony Racing Regulations and to make any alterations to them from time to time that they consider necessary.
- (iv) To make enquiry into and deal with any matter relating to PRA Pony Racing.
- (v) To enquire into and adjudicate upon any conduct alleged or perceived to be a possible breach of the Pony Racing Regulations or Code of Conduct, or to appoint an individual or individuals to enquire into and adjudicate on such matters. For the avoidance of doubt, this power includes the power to enquire into and adjudicate upon conduct that has already been considered by Organisers, Stewards and Officials of Pony Races.
- (vi) To exercise any other powers conferred upon them by these Regulations and to take any such action as they consider necessary for the purpose of carrying out or putting into effect these Regulations.

78 In the event that the PRA Board (or any individual or individuals appointed by the PRA Board pursuant to Regulation 77(v) above) concludes that a person who is subject to the Pony Racing Regulations has acted contrary to any provision of these Regulations or any Code of Conduct published by the PRA, the PRA Board has the power, at their discretion, to impose upon such person any one or more of the following penalties in addition to any other sanction or penalty provided for under these Regulations, namely

- (a) Impose a fine not exceeding £1000
- (b) Declare them a Disqualified Person from PRA events
- (c) Disqualify a Pony
- (d) Disqualify or discipline a Rider, including a warning on future conduct and issue a caution

- (e) Deduct up to 10 points per incident from any Pony or Rider
- (f) Caution them as to future conduct
- (g) Exclude them from premises used for PRA pony racing
- (h) Require them to attend a course at the British Racing School or National Horseracing College
- (i) Suspend a Pony and/or Rider from participating in PRA pony racing, whether generally or until another sanction or penalty imposed has been satisfied

(iv) The PRA Board may at their discretion consider any video recording, transcript, notes of evidence, statements or other material.

## STEWARDS & OFFICIALS OF MEETINGS

79 (i) The host venue shall appoint one Steward to watch each Pony Race with the Clerk of the Course and PRA Steward. An official representative from the PRA shall attend each Start.

(ii) The organiser along with the area representative shall arrange for sufficient help to assist and steward during the pony races.

80 (i) To alter placings in accordance with Regulation 84.

(ii) To ensure when in attendance that Pony Racing is run in accordance with these Regulations at the meeting and, in exceptional circumstances, to vary the arrangements concerning the running of any Pony Race at the meeting as they think fit and to give all necessary instructions for that purpose. In the event of this happening a written report must be forwarded to the Pony Racing Authority or Point-to-Point Authority informing them of the changes made on the day and the reasons.

(iii) At any time to order an examination by such person or persons as they think fit of any Pony entered for a race or which has run in a race. Where such examination includes the taking of samples for subsequent analysis the samples may be of any body fluid, tissue, excreta, hair or skin scrapings or of all or any of the same at the discretion of the person conducting the examination and may involve the removal of implants.

(iv) To order the withdrawal from a race any Pony that has been declared to run where they have reason to be concerned about the medical or physical condition of the Pony provided that they shall have first sought and obtained the opinion of a Veterinary Surgeon at the meeting who shall have recommended a withdrawal on such grounds.

(v) To order any Pony to be routinely checked for its microchip or Passport to confirm its identity.

(vi) When they consider that through any cause a Pony is or will be

unable to Start without there being an unacceptable delay to the start of the race they shall at once notify the Clerk of the Scales and the Starter that the Pony is withdrawn.

(vii) To immediately disqualify any Rider and Pony that has taken the wrong course.

(viii) **To immediately disqualify any Rider and Pony that either carried the incorrect weight or weighs in incorrectly.**

81 The Organiser, the PRA Steward and/or the Racecourse Steward have power to convene an Enquiry relating to any matter connected to the running and riding of a PRA pony race (including as to whether a breach of Regulation 90 has taken place) and/or the conduct of any person to whom these PRA Regulations apply in connection with a PRA pony race. At any such Enquiry a Rider or any other individual aged 16 or under shall be entitled to be accompanied by a Parent, guardian or other appropriate adult.'

82 Where following an Enquiry held under Regulation 81 the Organiser, PRA Steward or the Racecourse Stewards conclude that a person has committed a breach of the PRA Regulations or of any Code of Conduct published by the PRA or has otherwise acted in an unseemly manner (whether during the Race or otherwise), the Organiser, PRA Steward and Racecourse Stewards have power at their discretion to;

- (i) Issue a warning and formal letter of warning
- (ii) Disqualify a Pony
- (iii) Impose a deduction of points
- (iv) Impose a fine
- (v) Refer the matter to the PRA Board

## CLERK OF THE SCALES

83 The Clerk of the Scales shall

- (i) Weigh the Riders in accordance with the PRA Regulations.
- (ii) Cause to be displayed on the screen or number board or have announced alterations to the following information published in the official racecard,
  - (a) Declared Ponies
  - (b) Colours
- (iii) Furnish the Starter with a list of runners.
- (iv) Should a Pony be withdrawn, at once cause to be stated an announcement over the public address system that the Pony is withdrawn and which indicates whether such Pony has come under Starter's Orders. They shall also immediately report to the Stewards and/ or Officials where the Pony is specifically withdrawn by order of the Starter.
- (v) In all cases weigh in the Riders.
- (vi) Should an Objection be lodged or an enquiry be called for, at once order an appropriate announcement over the public address system.

## **JUDGE**

84 (i) One Judge, or an authorised substitute, shall be appointed and must occupy the place designated by the Stewards as the Judge's box when the first Pony passes the winning post or the race will be void. The Judge must remain in that place until such time as all the Ponies which are in a position to complete the course have passed the winning post and their decision in this matter shall be final. No Pony which passes the winning post after the Judge has left the box shall be placed.

(ii) The Judge must announce their decision immediately, or after consulting any authorised photographic evidence, where relevant, and shall determine the winner according to that part of the Pony's head, excluding the ears and tongue, which is first past the winning post. The remaining placings shall be determined in a similar manner and, subject to the PRA Regulations to disqualify Ponies and to alter placings, such decision shall be final.

(iii) The Judge shall at the close of each day's racing sign and give the full result of each Pony Race to the PRA Steward/organiser.

## **STARTER AND STARTING**

85 (i) The Starter shall obtain a list of runners for each Pony Race from the Clerk of the Scales.

(ii) Every Pony shall be at the Start ready to start at the appointed time. Failure to do so will, save in exceptional circumstances, result in the withdrawal of that Pony by the Starter, PRA or Racecourse official.

(iii) Any Rider in the opinion of the Starter, PRA Steward or Organisers that causes a delay to the Start or acts with improper conduct at the Start will have 10 points deducted from them and the Pony they were riding on the day.

(a) **Ponies may not be led to the start in any PRA race.**

(iv) An Official representative shall attend the Start to assist the Starter.

(v) All Riders who arrive at the Start immediately place themselves under the control of the Starter where girths will be checked by an Official and tightened as necessary.

(vi) The Ponies must be started by the Official Starter, or the authorised substitute, and all races shall be started by Flag **or tape** with an Advance Flag Operator / recall man.

(vii) After the Starter has called out the names of the runners he shall give all orders necessary for securing as fair start as far as possible.

(viii) The Starter has full power to remove an unruly Pony and, should they do so, must place it at such distance to one side of or behind the other runners that it cannot gain any advantage itself or cause danger to, or prejudice the chances of the other Ponies and Riders engaged in the race. Should an unruly Pony cause undue delay it may be "left".

(ix) Should the Starter or any BHA Official consider that through any cause a Pony is or will be unable to start at the appointed time or soon thereafter as the Starter is ready to start the race they shall at once notify the Clerk of the Scales that the Pony is withdrawn.

(x) Misconduct by a Rider at the start is an offence under PRA Regulations and the Starter shall report to the Stewards and Officials any Rider and/or attendant whom they consider to have been guilty of misconduct at the start or who has refused to obey the commands of the Starter. For the avoidance of doubt misconduct includes a Rider attempting to line up or take a position for the start before being instructed to do so by the Starter and any form of misconduct may result in the deduction of 10 points to the Pony and Rider. Note: It is emphasised that the example described above is not an exhaustive definition of misconduct as other circumstances may result in the Starter reporting a Rider or their connections.

(xi) (a) Should the Starter consider that a fair start has not been effected they shall declare it a false start. The Starter may also declare a false start when a Pony has broken away before the race has been declared "Off". Whenever a false start has been declared the Starter shall order the Riders by means of the recall flag, to return to the Starting Post.

(b) Unless at least one Rider returns to the Starter after the recall flag has been raised for a false start the race shall be void.

(c) Should only one Rider return to the Starter and satisfy him as to his having obeyed the recall flag, the Pony shall be considered as having walked over for the race. Should more than one return, the race shall be started again as soon as the course is clear.

(d) Following the recall flag Ponies which complete the course shall not be considered as having obeyed the recall flag and shall be withdrawn by the Starter/Steward/Organiser on the day.

(e) Should the Starter declare a false start and the recall flag not be raised, the race shall be void, unless all the Ponies pull up before completing the course.

(xii) The Starter's decision on all matters covered by Regulation 85

(i) - (xi) (a) - (e) shall be final.

86 (i) It is the Owner's responsibility to properly school their Ponies for the start. Any Pony in the opinion of the PRA Steward, Organisers or Officials that is not properly schooled at the Start may be prevented from running on the day and future Entries declined.

(ii) No owner, parent/legal guardian/rider's representative or Pony attendant will be allowed upon the Course at the Start. Misconduct at the start is an offence under the PRA Regulations and the Starter shall report to the Stewards and Officials any person whom they consider to have been guilty of misconduct at the start or who has refused to obey the commands of the Starter. A deduction of points to their associated Pony and Rider may also be imposed.

(iii) All races to be started by the lowering of a flag, unless otherwise specified by the PRA. The person responsible for giving the signal to start is the Starter. Any Rider guilty of an attempt to anticipate the signal will be guilty of an offence.

## **DISQUALIFICATION OF PONIES**

87 Where a Pony has been the subject of an examination and the result of an Analysis of any Sample is positive, the Pony and Rider shall be disqualified for the race in question and any points deducted from the race. Furthermore the Owner shall be guilty of an offence and will be required to pay a mandatory £250 fine to the PRA.

88 A Pony shall be disqualified from its race on account of its Rider carrying the incorrect weight or not weighing in, taking the wrong course or through dangerous riding.

89 A Pony is not qualified to start for a race:

- (i) If it has not been duly Entered for the race
- (ii) If it has not been declared a runner
- (iii) If it has not been vaccinated accordance with Regulation 59 (iii) or if the details of such vaccination are not correctly recorded on its Passport
- (iv) If its Rider has not weighed out**
- (v) If the correctly endorsed Passport has not been produced
- (vi) If it has received any vaccination against equine influenza within the seven days previous to the race
- (vii) If it is found to exceed the height allowed
- (viii) If it contravenes Regulations 12-20.

## RIDING OFFENCES

90 (i) When a Pony or its Rider has caused interference

- (a) By dangerous riding in any part of a race the Pony shall be disqualified on the day.
- (b) By careless or improper riding or by accident in any part of a race the Pony shall be placed behind the Pony or Ponies with which it has interfered if the Stewards and Officials are satisfied that the interference improved its placing in relation to the Pony or Ponies with which it interfered. If they are not so satisfied they shall overrule the objection and order that the placings shall remain unaltered.

(ii) The Rider of any Pony who, in the opinion of the Stewards and Officials, has been guilty of dangerous, careless or improper riding or unseemly behaviour at any time whilst on the racecourse and whether before or after any race shall be guilty of an offence.

(iii) When in the opinion of the Stewards / Officials any Rider has committed any breach of or been guilty of any offence within these Regulations they shall have the power to recommend to the PRA Board to impose a fine to the Rider not exceeding £1000 or to suspend them from PRA Pony Racing for any period.

(iv) When in the opinion of the Stewards / Officials any Rider is guilty of dangerous, careless, improper riding or unseemly behaviour (for the avoidance of doubt the reference to unseemly behaviour extends to a person attending a PRA race meeting) they may be referred to the PRA Board. For the purpose of this Regulation the following definitions apply:

- 1) Dangerous riding - A Rider is guilty of dangerous riding if they cause serious interference by:
  - (a) Purposely interfering with another Pony or Rider, or;
  - (b) Riding in a way which is far below that of a competent and careful Rider and where it would be obvious to such a competent and careful Rider that riding in that way was likely to endanger the safety of a Pony or Rider.

2) Careless riding - A Rider is guilty of careless riding if they fail to take reasonable steps to avoid causing interference or cause interference by inattention or misjudgement, including when manoeuvring for position.

3) Improper riding - whether mounted or dismounted includes forms of misconduct in the course of riding such as riding that would be dangerous as defined above but for the fact that it did not cause serious interference.

4) Unseemly behaviour - when in the opinion of the PRA Steward, Organisers or Officials a Rider, Owner or any other person has been rude, aggressive, disrespectful, has failed to follow the direction of an Official or who has behaved in an aggressive or unfair manner to their Pony.

(v) No child may be mounted on a Pony other than in the Parade Ring before the race and during the race itself. Failure to comply may result with immediate disqualification.

#### **FAILURE TO OBTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACING**

91 (i) Every Pony which runs in a race shall be run on its merits and ridden to obtain the best possible place.

(ii) It shall be the duty of the parent/legal guardian/rider's representative and owner to ensure that adequate instructions to achieve the best placing be given to the Rider of any Pony in their care.

(iii) Any Rider guilty of contravening Regulation 86 may be disqualified from competing in any PRA Pony Race for a period no less than 21 days from the day the offence was committed.

## DISPUTES, OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

92 Any person wishing to make an Objection (other than an Objection made under Regulation 85) must submit their Objection in full in writing to the PRA clearly stating the reason for their objection and their evidence. This must be accompanied by a deposit of £150, payable to the PRA, which will be refunded if the complaint is upheld. Objections or complaints received in any other manner will not be investigated by the PRA.

93 (i) Any Objection arising out of an occurrence during a Pony Race must be lodged in writing on the day to the PRA Steward or Organisers with a £50 deposit clearly stating by whom the objection is made and signed by them, detailing when the event took place and the reason for the objection being made.

(ii) An Objection cannot be withdrawn once lodged.

94 Any objection made under Regulation 91(i) shall be dealt with wherever possible on the day by the Stewards and/or Official representative in attendance and where necessary referred to the PRA Board.

95 Any Owner or Rider subject of an objection shall be entitled to appeal to the PRA Board once the outcome of the objection has been announced.

96 The appellant shall lodge a Notice of Appeal with the PRA Board within seven days. On all occasions when an Appeal is lodged a deposit must be made at the same time of £250. Such deposit shall be returned in the event that the appeal is upheld.

97 (i) The Notice of Appeal must be signed by the appellant and state the specific grounds of appeal.

(ii) In the event of an appeal by submission of written evidence the appellant must within seven days of the Notice of Appeal being lodged submit to the Pony Racing Authority such written evidence and representation as they wish to be considered. The PRA Board at its sole discretion may request that the PRA provides a written response to the appellant's submission of written evidence. All questions concerning the admissibility of evidence shall be for the PRA Board to

determine at its discretion and the PRA Board shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence before a court of law or statutory tribunal. The applicable burden of proof shall be the civil standard.

(iii) The Appeal shall be considered by the PRA Board and the appellant may or may not be required to be present.

98 In the event that (1) the PRA Board or any individual or individuals appointed by the PRA Board pursuant to Regulation 77(v) has concluded that a breach of the PRA Regulations or Code of Conduct has been committed, and/or (2) the PRA Board has imposed a penalty or sanction pursuant to Regulation 78, the relevant individual has the right to Appeal the decision in writing. Detailing their reasons in full within seven days of the penalty being issued. This must be accompanied by a deposit of £500 which will be refunded if the Appeal is upheld. The Appeal Panel shall consist of three people, including one member of the PRA Board (who for the avoidance of doubt will be a designated Appeal Panel Steward and who will not have sat or otherwise have been involved in the decision of the PRA Board being appealed), and be chaired by an independent person. The Appeal Panel will be notified within 10 working days that an Appeal to the PRA Board has been lodged and the independent Chairman shall then conduct their Enquiry into the matter with their Panel members at their discretion and within a timescale reasonable to themselves.

## PROHIBITED PRACTICES AND DISQUALIFICATION OF PERSON

99 Any person who has been declared a British Horseracing Authority disqualified person shall be prevented from taking part in PRA events.

100 A person disqualified under the PRA Regulations may not necessarily become a British Horseracing Authority disqualified person.

101 Any person who has been declared a Disqualified Person under PRA Regulations will not be permitted to automatically re-enter PRA Pony Racing in any registered or licensed capacity. The PRA Board will consider and deal at its sole discretion with any application for any registration or license required under PRA Regulation from a Disqualified person, after their period of disqualification. No person shall be permitted to associate in connection with PRA Pony Racing with any person who has been declared a disqualified person by the PRA without the prior written permission of the PRA Board. Any person who does associate in connection with PRA Pony Racing with a disqualified person will have committed an offence under these Regulations.

102 Any person may be declared a disqualified person or otherwise penalised who:

- (i) Gives, offers, or promises directly or indirectly any bribe in any form to any person having official duties in relation to a race or Pony, or to any owner, parent / legal guardian, Rider, representative, or other person having charge of, or access to, any Pony; or
- (ii) Wilfully enters or causes to be entered for any race or causes to start in any race a Pony which they know or believe to be not qualified;
- (iii) Is convicted of any criminal offence in relation to racing in this or any other country; or
- (iv) Does not pay any sums due under PRA Regulations or under conditions of races run under them;
- (v) Knowingly runs a Pony under a secondary identity. And any such act shall constitute a breach of these Regulations.
- (vi) In the opinion of the PRA Board contravenes 89(iv)(4)

(vii) Provides false, inaccurate or misleading information to the PRA or Organiser

103 Any person who owns, trains or rides a Pony in any Pony Race not authorised by the PRA or any person who acts in any official capacity in connection with such an unauthorised meeting may be declared a PRA disqualified person for a period of twelve months.

104 A British Horseracing Authority or PRA disqualified person, so long as their disqualification continues, shall not attend, enter, run, train, own or ride a Pony in any PRA event held under these Regulations or a Pony Club Race Day. If any entry made by a person disqualified be mistakenly or inadvertently accepted, the same shall, despite such acceptance, be void and the Pony shall not be qualified to be entered or to start.

## DEFINITIONS

**“British Horseracing Authority”** (BHA) is the style under which the British Horseracing Board will govern and regulate horseracing from the Appointed Day pending and/or after a change of its name to British Horseracing Authority Limited, and consequently British Horseracing Authority means the entity incorporated under the Companies Act and registered under registration number 2813358.

**“Combination”** is the Pony and Rider together.

**“Competent Combination”** is a Pony suitable to the rider’s ability, experience and confidence on the day of the race that is not putting at risk its rider, or others, nor causing an unacceptable delay to the Pony Race.

**“Confined Area”** means the Point-to-Point Pony Racing area in which the registered PRA member resides, in terms of their postcode. There are fourteen areas: Northern, North Western, Yorkshire, Midlands, Welsh Borders, West Midlands, South Midlands, East Anglia, South East, Sandhurst, Wessex, Devon & Cornwall, West Wales and South Wales.

**“Disqualified Person”** is a person who has been declared a disqualified person under these Regulations, the British Horseracing Authority Rules of Racing, British Horseracing Authority Regulations for Point-to-Point Steeple or British Horseracing Authority Regulations for

Arabian Horse Racing or who is a disqualified person by virtue of such Rules or such Regulations will be considered a disqualified person for PRA events. Any such person will therefore be prevented from taking part in any PRA events.

**“Joint Measurement Board Ltd”** is a national scheme for the measurement of horses and ponies for the purpose of description and classification of such horses and ponies for competition.

**“Maximum Number of Runners”** is the maximum number of Ponies which can be started in a race as determined by the Racecourse and Inspector of Courses.

**“Medical Armband”** indicates the medical history and allergies of Riders competing in Pony Races under PRA Regulations.

**“Medical Officer”** is any registered practitioner engaged by the Organisers to provide medical cover for the Riders.

**“Medical Record Book (MRB)”** is the booklet containing information relating to the rider’s health and any falls whilst Pony Racing.

**“Microchip”** means a microchip approved by the JMB Ltd.

**“Misconduct”** means unacceptable or improper behaviour of any person connected to a member and rider of the PRA.

**“Nominated Representative”** is the adult appointed by the parent/ legal guardian wholly responsible for their child on the day of the race.

**“Official”** includes where the context allows all Officials of the PRA and British Horseracing Authority in connection with the business of Pony Racing.

**“Overgrith”** must be fastened by a leather strap and buckle.

**“Owner”** is the individual named as the Owner when the pony is registered with the PRA. In the event of a minor being listed as the Owner on the registration, the parent / legal guardian shall be held responsible.

**“Passport”** is the approved diagrammatic document of identity of a Pony issued by a recognised Vet and must include the Pony’s official name, year of foaling, markings, vaccinations and medication.

“**Point-to-Point Authority**” is a limited company incorporated in England and Wales and to whom certain Point-to-Point administrative functions have been formally delegated by the British Horseracing Authority within its powers.

“**Pony**” includes a mare or gelding aged 4 to 20 years measuring 148cm & Under.

“**Pony Club [PC]**” means The Pony Club.

“**Pony Race**” a race in which any Pony runs with any other Pony in competition for any prize of any kind or nature whatsoever for the purposes of deciding the results at which more than 20 persons (not including the participants of the Pony Race) are present save that events at horse shows or gymkhanas which are restricted to children under 18 years of age, or which involve a substantial element of chance or skill unconnected with horse-riding, shall not be considered Pony races.

“**Pony Racing Authority [PRA]**” means the Authority established to represent and oversee the running of all Pony Racing events and meetings in Britain for children aged 9-16 years and as a governing body to provide orders, rules and regulations for the organisation of Pony Racing generally.

“**Pony Registration**” is the information held by the Chief PRA Steward detailing each Pony and its registered Owner.

“**Pony Racing Season**” runs from 1st January until 31st December of the current year.

“**PRA Board**” are the people appointed by the PRA and British Horseracing Authority to manage and supervise Pony Racing.

“**PRA Steward**” is the person appointed by the PRA Board to oversee the running of Pony Racing.

“**Prohibited Substance**” means a substance originating externally whether or not it is endogenous to the Pony which falls in any of the categories contained in the List of Prohibited Substances set out in British Horseracing Authority Schedule (C)6 as amended from time

to time. “Substance” includes the metabolites of the substance and the isomers of the substance and metabolites. “Recognised Pony Race” is a Pony Race authorised by the PRA which has been granted a fixture.

“**Responsible Adult**” is the adult who has been given authority by the parent / legal guardian to act on their behalf for the Rider on the day of the race.

“**Rider**” is a person of the relevant age and qualification to compete in a Pony Race.

“**Sample**” in relation to a Pony means a quantity of body fluid, tissue, excreta, hair or skin scrapings or items in contact with any part of the Pony taken at the discretion of the person conducting the examination and may involve the removal of implants. For the avoidance of doubt this includes Samples which have been stored having previously been reported as negative.

“**Steward**” means a Steward or Stewards appointed by the Organisers, or their duly appointed deputy or deputies.

“**Unruly Pony**” is any Pony that in the opinion of an Official representative or Racecourse Official is considered to pose a threat to the safety of any Rider or other individuals. For the avoidance of doubt this includes any Pony that rears, kicks out, bolts, panics, is reluctant or generally unruly at any time whilst on the host venue.

“**Veterinary Surgeon**” is a registered veterinary surgeon engaged by the Organisers to provide veterinary cover.

## SAFEGUARDING REGULATIONS

### AIMS OF THE PRA SAFEGUARDING REGULATIONS

- 1 (i) The PRA is committed to ensuring the welfare of Children within pony racing. The PRA expects all Persons to share this commitment and maintain appropriate standards and behaviour in their dealings with Children.  
(ii) These PRA Safeguarding Regulations, incorporating the NSP Rules, establish a framework through which the PRA may investigate matters concerning the harm, or possibility of harm, to Children, and the PRA's disciplinary processes relating to such matters.  
(iii) The core aim of these PRA Safeguarding Regulations is to ensure the safety and welfare of Children within pony racing. The procedures detailed in these PRA Safeguarding Regulations are intended to be fair, straightforward and tailored to the needs of pony racing.

### JURISDICTION

- 2 (i) These PRA Safeguarding Regulations apply to all Persons.

### DEFINITIONS

- 3 (i) **“Child”** means any person engaged in pony racing activities under the jurisdiction of the PRA and who is under the age of 18 years (and ‘Children’ shall be construed accordingly);  
(ii) **“NSP”** means the National Safeguarding Panel operated by Sport Resolutions (UK) (a trading name of The Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Ltd - Company No. 3351039);  
(iii) **“NSP rules”** means the Procedural Rules of the NSP;  
(iv) **“NSP tribunal”** means an Arbitral Tribunal and/or an Appeal Tribunal (as the context so requires) appointed pursuant to the NSP Rules;  
(v) **“Person”** means any person to whom the Regulations of the PRA apply, save that it shall also include any other individual who

has agreed to be bound by these PRA Safeguarding Regulations and any person who from time to time participates or is otherwise involved in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by the PRA;

(vi) **“Provisional Suspension”** means a temporary bar from participating in activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by the PRA pending determination of a charge, as set out more specifically in paragraph 7; and

## PROHIBITED CONDUCT

4 No Person may (i) engage, or attempt or threaten to engage, in conduct that directly or indirectly harms any Child or Children, and/ or (ii) pose a risk of harm to any Child or Children.

Note:

(a) “Harm” is not a narrow concept, and can mean different things in different contexts. Reference should be made to the PRA Safeguarding Policy.

(b) It is not necessary for conduct (or attempted or threatened conduct) to take place in the context of pony racing activities. For example (and without limitation), in the event that a Person is convicted or cautioned for, or charged with, any offence that concerns harm to a child (whether or not any affected children are involved in pony racing), that may form the basis of action under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations as a result of that Person posing a risk of harm (regardless of whether or not the relevant offence, or alleged offence, took place in the context of pony racing activities).

## THE PRA'S POWERS OF INVESTIGATION

5 (i) Upon the receipt of information that gives the PRA reasonable ground(s) to suspect that a Person has engaged, or attempted or threatens/threatened to engage, in conduct of the kind detailed at paragraph 4, the PRA will be entitled to investigate the matter.

(ii) In relation to any investigation commenced under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations, the PRA may:

- (a) investigate the matter itself; and/or
- (b) appoint others, including an independent safeguarding expert (or experts), to assist the PRA in relation to its investigation or investigate the matter on the PRA's behalf.

(iii) In relation to any investigation commenced under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations, the PRA (or its appointee) may require any Person (and request any other persons) to:

- (a) attend to answer and provide information and/or answer questions by way of interview;
- (b) produce documents, information or other material in whatever form held;
- (c) undertake a risk assessment by a suitably qualified person appointed by the PRA in such form as the PRA, at its discretion, considers appropriate; and/or
- (d) co-operate in any other manner that might be necessary or desirable for the purpose of the investigation.

## SUPPORTING PROVISIONS

6 (i) All Persons subject to investigation under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations, or who may otherwise be asked to assist with any such investigation, must co-operate with the PRA's (or its appointee's/appointees') investigation.

(ii) No Person may subject any other Person or other party to any detriment on the ground or belief that that Person or other party has reported a safeguarding concern to the PRA (or any other appropriate body) and/or assisted the PRA in any manner in relation to investigations or proceedings brought under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations.

(iii) No Person may make a malicious safeguarding report to the PRA, or otherwise act in bad faith in relation to matters covered by these PRA Safeguarding Regulations.

(iv) If any Person breaches any of the above provisions of this paragraph 6, such conduct will be deemed to be conduct of the kind detailed at paragraph 4.

Note:

The PRA wants to be presented with any information, from any source, where there is reason to consider that any Person has presented or presents a risk of harm to one or more Children, so that appropriate action may be taken. In order for the PRA's work under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations to be effective, the co-operation of all Persons is necessary when requested by the PRA (or those acting on its behalf). The PRA may therefore view a failure to co-operate, or conduct designed at preventing or dissuading others from reporting concerns or co-operating, as a serious disciplinary matter. The PRA will also view malicious reporting or acts of bad faith in relation to safeguarding matters seriously (e.g. where a false report is made to pursue a personal vendetta or false information is deliberately provided to an investigation).

## PROVISIONAL SUSPENSIONS

7 (i) At any point in time where the PRA has reasonable ground(s) to suspect that a Person has engaged in conduct (or, as the case may be, attempted or threatened/threatens to engage in conduct) of the kind detailed at paragraph 4, the PRA may (in its absolute discretion) either:

- (a) impose an immediate Provisional Suspension directly on that Person; or
- (b) apply to the NSP (in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the NSP Rules or as otherwise directed by the NSP) for the imposition of a Provisional Suspension on that Person.

ii) The PRA will impose or seek the imposition of a Provisional Suspension only in cases where, in the opinion of the PRA's Chief Executive and/or Chief Steward, a Provisional Suspension is reasonable and proportionate, with reference to the aims of these PRA Safeguarding Regulations.

iii) A Provisional Suspension may bar a Person from all or any specific pony racing activities under the auspices of the PRA and on such terms and conditions as the PRA or (as the case may be) the NSP considers are reasonable and proportionate.

iv) In cases where the PRA imposes a Provisional Suspension in accordance with paragraph 7.1.1, the Person upon whom a Provisional Suspension is imposed will be promptly notified by the PRA. The notification should, unless impracticable for any reason (such as prejudice to an investigation or because of the risk of harm to any person):

- (a) set out the reasons why the Provisional Suspension has been imposed;
- (b) detail the scope of the Provisional Suspension, i.e. which pony racing activities the Person is prohibited from undertaking;
- (c) set out such other terms and conditions as the PRA considers are reasonable and proportionate; and

(d) advise that the Person may apply to have the Provisional Suspension lifted or varied by the NSP (in accordance with paragraph 7.6 below).

(v) The PRA may at any time vary the terms and conditions of a Provisional Suspension that it has imposed under paragraph 7.1.1 where it considers it appropriate to do so.

(vi) The PRA or any Person subject to a Provisional Suspension may apply to the NSP to have it lifted or varied. A Provisional Suspension will otherwise remain in force until the matter has been finally determined (by the NSP or howsoever otherwise).

(vii) The PRA may publish and/or share information relating to Provisional Suspensions on a 'need to know' basis, in such form and manner, and to such extent, as it deems necessary for the purposes of enforcement and/or compliance.

Note:

When considering whether or not a Provisional Suspension is reasonable and proportionate in any case, the PRA will give consideration to the following:

- The aims of these PRA Safeguarding Regulations.
- The prospect of any charge(s) being upheld (i.e. the stronger the merits of the charge(s), the stronger the justification for a Provisional Suspension).
- The seriousness of the individual case (i.e. the more serious a case is, the stronger the justification for a Provisional Suspension).
- Whether a Provisional Suspension is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by the PRA or the police or other public authority (or analogous body) to proceed unimpeded.
- Any other circumstances that might be relevant to the individual case.

The determination of applications relating to Provisional Suspensions will, strictly, be a matter for the NSP. However, the PRA considers that the NSP Tribunal or President (as the case may be) should give consideration to the above when considering applications relating to Provisional Suspensions.

## **NOTICE OF CHARGE**

8 (i) If, at the conclusion of an investigation commenced under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations, the PRA concludes that the Person under investigation has a case to answer, the PRA will send written notice of charge to that Person:

- (a) confirming that a charge is being issued against them under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations;
- (b) detailing the facts and evidence on which the charge is based; and
- (c) requiring his or her written response to the charge within fourteen days.

(ii) In the event that a written notice of charge is sent to a Person who was under the age of 18 years when the relevant conduct is alleged to have occurred, the PRA may, if it considers it appropriate, address or copy the notice to the Person's parent(s) or carer(s).

## **PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINATION OF MATTERS ARISING UNDER THESE PRA SAFEGUARDING REGULATIONS**

9 (i) Following receipt of the Person's response to a written notice of charge, or in the event no such response is received within fourteen days, the PRA may refer the matter for a hearing before the NSP to determine appropriate disciplinary orders and/or risk management measures (if any).

(ii) If the PRA refers a Person to the NSP under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations it shall prepare and send a written notice of referral in the name of the PRA to the Person, which shall contain the following information:

- (a) the facts alleged in support of the referral;
- (b) an outline of the process to be followed in relation to the referral; and
- (c) contact details for the NSP.

(iii) The following matters arising under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations may be determined by the NSP in accordance with the NSP Rules, as amended from time to time, which are deemed to be incorporated by reference to this paragraph:

- (a) any referral to the NSP by the PRA on the basis that a Person has engaged in conduct (or, as the case may be, attempted or threatened to engage in conduct) of the kind detailed at paragraph 4;
- (b) an application that a Provisional Suspension should be imposed, lifted or varied pursuant to paragraph 7; and
- (c) any other matter that the PRA may reasonably refer to the NSP for determination in accordance with the NSP Rules.

## DISCIPLINARY ORDERS AND RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES

10 (i) NSP Tribunals may impose such disciplinary orders and/or risk management measures as they see fit. However, the PRA envisages that the following range of disciplinary orders and risk management measures are appropriate where, on the balance of probabilities, an NSP Tribunal concludes that a Person has engaged in conduct (or, as the case may be, attempted or threatened to engage in conduct) of the kind detailed at paragraph 4:

- (a) a reprimand/warning;
- (b) a fine or compensation order (in appropriate cases arising from breaches of the provisions of paragraph 6);
- (c) an order to undertake specified training;
- (d) an order requiring an individual to be monitored in specific matters;
- (e) suspension for a specific period of time from involvement in pony racing activities under the auspices of the PRA on such terms and conditions as the NSP Tribunal considers appropriate; and
- (f) permanent exclusion from involvement in pony racing activities under the auspices of the PRA on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate.

(ii) The PRA may publish and/or share details of disciplinary orders and risk management measures on a 'need to know' basis, in such form and manner, and to such extent, as it deems necessary for the purposes of enforcement and/or compliance. The PRA may also take such administrative steps as it deems necessary or appropriate in order to give effect to disciplinary orders and/or risk management measures imposed by NSP Tribunals (i.e. such disciplinary orders and/or risk management measures will not require any further act of ratification by any other body).

## **CONCLUSION OF CASES WITHOUT REFERRAL**

11 If, at any stage prior to a referral under paragraph 9, the PRA concludes that

- (i) there is insufficient evidence to charge/proceed with disciplinary action, and/or
- (ii) a referral would not further the aims of these PRA Safeguarding Regulations, and/or
- (iii) there is any other bona fide reason for the PRA not to refer the matter, then the PRA may take such other action as it considers appropriate in all the circumstances of the case. For example, but without limitation, the PRA may inform a Person that he/she has no case to answer, provide a Person with guidance as to his/her future conduct, issue a Person with a warning/reprimand, or refer the matter to another body (where the PRA is satisfied that other body will deal with the matter effectively).

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

12 (i) These PRA Safeguarding Regulations are to be interpreted and applied by reference to their core aim of ensuring the safety and welfare of Children. Such interpretation and application shall take precedence over any strict legal or technical interpretations that may otherwise be proposed. The PRA's Safeguarding Policy and any related documents that may be published by the PRA from time to time may be referred to as interpretative aids.

(ii) In the event that any incident or other matter occurs that is not provided for in these PRA Safeguarding Regulations (whether it relates to conduct, jurisdiction, investigation, procedure, sanction or otherwise), then the PRA, or (following a referral to the NSP) the NSP President or any appointed NSP Tribunal may take such action as considered appropriate in the circumstances, taking into account the specific circumstances of the individual case and the principles of natural justice and fairness.

(iii) Minor practical or technical points will not serve to invalidate the procedure or any decisions or findings made under these PRA

Safeguarding Regulations, so long as the principles of natural justice and fairness are not infringed.

(iv) These PRA Safeguarding Regulations are intended to operate on a stand-alone basis without reference to other PRA Regulations or disciplinary procedures. However, in the event that any matter or conduct falling under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations also falls under any other PRA rules, regulations or procedures (as may from time to time be in force), or is subject to investigation by the police or other public authority (or analogous body, such as another sports governing body), or is subject to any other legal/ regulatory/ disciplinary process, then the PRA or (following a referral to the NSP) the NSP President or any appointed NSP Tribunal, may at any point temporarily suspend the procedure under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event that any matter or conduct falling under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations also falls under any other PRA rules, regulations or procedures (as may from time to time be in force), the PRA expressly reserves its right to bring proceedings under those other rules or regulations (regardless of whether proceedings are also brought under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations).

(v) Save to the extent that disclosure and/or publication is provided for in these PRA Safeguarding Regulations, or is otherwise in accordance with the law, all matters considered under these PRA Safeguarding Regulations, will, so far as practicable, be regarded as confidential and used only for the purposes of these PRA Safeguarding Regulations.

(vi) These PRA Safeguarding Regulations are governed by English law.

(vii) In the case of any conflict between the PRA Safeguarding Regulations and the NSP Rules, the latter shall take precedence in relation to matters that have been referred to the NSP.

(viii) If any part of these PRA Safeguarding Regulations (including the NSP Rules) is ruled to be invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, that part will be deemed deleted, and the rest of these PRA Safeguarding Regulations will remain in full force and effect.

(ix) Neither the PRA, nor any person employed by or appointed to assist the PRA, will be liable to any party for any act or omission unless it is actuated by malice or bad faith.

(x) These PRA Safeguarding Regulations will come into effect on 1st December 2019. The PRA may amend these PRA Safeguarding Regulations from time to time. Such amendments will come into effect on the date specified by the PRA.





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