



BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

Grand National Review Panel

Terms of Reference

Overview

1. All entries for races run over the Grand National Course will have their suitability assessed by the Grand National Review Panel ('GNRP'). This procedure operates within the context of the powers of the British Horseracing Authority ("BHA") afforded by Rule (I)2.2 This states:

"2. If necessary, the BHA may:

...

2.2 refuse to allow a horse to run in any Race."

2. The purpose of this document is to:
 - a. Outline the process by which the suitability of a horse entered to run is assessed; and
 - b. Provide an overview of the assessment criteria used by the BHA.

The Panel

Membership of the GNRP

3. The GNRP reports to the BHA's Chief Regulatory Officer or their delegate.
4. The Chair of the GNRP shall be a member of the BHA Regulatory department.
5. The Panel shall be comprised of the Chair, or their delegate, and at least one member from the following BHA departments:
 - i. Racing;
 - ii. Inspectorate;
 - iii. Veterinary; and
 - iv. Handicapping.

It shall also include the Clerk of the Course at Aintree and their delegate (if applicable), a representative of Jockey Club Racecourses and two retired jump jockeys where possible.

Quorum

6. The quorum necessary to conduct the function of the GNRP shall be three members of the Panel, one of whom shall be the Chair.

The Process

Review Process

7. The GNRP will review the suitability of an entry by reference to, but not limited to, the criteria below.

The Suitability Criteria

8. The GNRP assess each entry's suitability by reference to:

- a. Recent performances, particularly form and staying ability.

A horse that has pulled up, fallen, unseated its rider, refused and/or finished tailed off on three or more occasions in its last six runs, or a similar profile, will automatically be given special consideration by the Panel. Any apparent decline in form will also be a factor.

- b. Level of experience in Steeplechases (including Point to Points for the purposes of the Foxhunters' Hunters' Steeple Chase)

A horse which has run fewer than six times in Steeplechases (as defined above) in its career will require careful consideration.

- c. Experience over the Grand National course

Any previous experience over the Grand National course may affect the decision of the Panel in either a positive or negative sense.

- d. The potential of disruption to the start of the race.

- e. Physical fitness/suitability of the horse

An analysis of health will be conducted by a BHA Veterinary Officer if any entry has had¹:

- A previously recorded racecourse injury;
- A previously recorded post-race display of heat stress; or
- A lay off of one year or more in its career.

An analysis of health may be conducted in any other circumstances where it is deemed necessary.

- f. Time off the racecourse

Any horse that has had a significant amount of time off the racecourse will be given careful consideration by the Panel.

- g. Any other factor the Panel deems relevant to their assessment.

Procedure

9. If, having reviewed the suitability of an entry by reference to the considerations above, the GNRP views it as unsuitable to run in the race in question, it will raise these concerns with the Trainer (or Owner in the case of the Foxhunters' Hunters' Steeple Chase).

¹ This analysis is in addition to the raceday veterinary inspection stipulated in the conditions for races run over the Grand National Course.

10. The Trainer will be invited to withdraw the entry from the relevant race, and the entry fee for that race will be repaid in full should the invitation be accepted.

Challenging the Decision

11. Should the Trainer reject the invitation to withdraw the horse, they must serve notice in writing to the Chairman of the GNRP within 5 days of the invitation. Any additional relevant evidence for the GNRP to consider must also be submitted at this time, should there be any.
12. A trainer that rejects the invitation to withdraw waives their entitlement to have their entry fee refunded.
13. The GNRP will review its initial assessment of the entry's suitability in the light of any further evidence served by the Trainer. It will then prepare a written report which will either:
 - **Confirm** its initial analysis that the entry should be withdrawn; or
 - **Overrule** its initial analysis, but state that the entry should **still be withdrawn** on the basis of fresh evidence or different reasons; or
 - **Overrule** its initial analysis, and **confirm** that the entry may remain in the race.
14. The Chief Regulatory Officer or their delegate will participate in the review by the GNRP. If the withdrawal is confirmed they will exercise the BHA's powers under Rule (I)2.2 and refuse the horse entry.