



## THE BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

### Job Description (2024)

**JOB TITLE:** Starter  
**DEPARTMENT:** Starters (Raceday)  
**REPORTS TO:** Team Principal – Starters and Team Leaders  
**NUMBER of DIRECT REPORTS:** 0  
**GRADE & SALARY:** AT4  
**LAST REVIEWED:** September 2024

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#### **ROLE PURPOSE:**

To oversee all horses, riders and racecourse personnel at the start to ensure that a safe and fair start, is given for each race in accordance with the BHA Rules of Racing, BHA General Instructions and Standard Operating Procedures at assigned race meetings.

#### **PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES:**

- To ensure that races are started safely and efficiently from the correct place and not before the advertised time.
- To control all activities, maintain strict discipline at the Start and where necessary report any instances of misbehaviour by Jockeys or other personnel to the Stewards.
- To conduct each start with due regard to his/her responsibilities under Health and Safety Regulations.
- To give the order to start in each race ensuring that the start is safe and fair and seen to be fair.
- To ensure the BHA Rules, Instructions and Standard Operating Procedures are fairly and consistently adhered to.
- To supervise stalls tests in accordance with BHA Instructions.
- To complete fully and accurately all required written or electronic reports within the allotted timeframe.
- To ensure that managers are informed as soon as is reasonably practical of any instances of equipment malfunction or other issues from a raceday.
- To report to managers as soon as is reasonably practical any cases where starts have not gone according to plan and have or may be subject to Stewards enquiries, press comment or other speculation.
- To attend any departmental training days or meeting as may be required.

*As the needs of the business change, this role will change accordingly, therefore this document should be viewed as guidelines which are subject to change.*

## **PERSONAL SPECIFICATION**

### **QUALIFICATIONS/EDUCATION**

- Educational qualifications suitable to fulfil the role's requirements.

### **EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

- Confident handling horses and working around them.
- To be able to recognise and correct ill-fitting tack.
- Ability to assimilate information and apply in practice.
- Knowledge of the BHA starting rules, instructions and procedures.
- Able to act decisively and use own judgement in accordance with the starting procedures.
- Able to keep strict deadlines and maintain accurate timings, in particular with regard to off times.
- Computer literate with general understanding of Microsoft 365.

### **PERSONAL QUALITIES**

- High level of interpersonal skills
- Diplomatic, tactful, and controlled in difficult situations
- Organised with good time management abilities
- Good communication skills, particularly verbal
- Must possess a strong work ethic
- Comfortable under media scrutiny
- High level of integrity and honesty
- Able to work calmly under pressure and to deadlines
- Authoritative – able to keep discipline

### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

- Be in possession of a full valid driving licence – preferably clean
- Travelling is an important part of the job, and it is expected that the job holder will undertake regular travel, and this will require overnight stays
- It may be necessary to prepare work outside of the normal working day
- The nature of horseracing dictates that duties will be performed regularly during weekdays, evenings, weekends, and bank holidays.