BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.1
Dtd 28 March 2026

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: RACE PROGRAMMING POLICY
(previously in Rules of Racing)

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1. All race programmes must comply with BHAGI 2.1 and any additional race programme policy issued by the Authority from time to time.

Conditions of Races

2. The conditions of a race must meet the following requirements:

- the Maximum Figure for a race must not exceed the Safety Factor;
- the number of horses permitted to start the race must not exceed either the Maximum Figure or the Safety Factor.

3. The conditions of a race must not contain any restrictions as to training stables.

Minimum Requirements as to Races to be Included in a Flat Race Programme

4. In each day's programme of racing, there must be two races of a mile or upwards.

5. 25% of races programmed must be at least a distance of ten furlongs or upwards per quarter.

6. In addition, racecourses must achieve either the following:

- 10% of races programmed must be at least a distance of twelve furlongs or upwards per quarter; or
- 6% of races programmed must be at least a distance of fourteen furlongs and upwards per quarter.

7. From January 1st until the first Saturday in June, each fixture should include at least one type of Maiden, Novice or Conditions Race open to three year olds.

8. Where the programme is held at or after the start of the week that follows the Doncaster St Leger Meeting but before the end of The Flat Season, the daily programme of races to be run must include at least one race of between six to eight furlongs restricted to Maiden or Novice two year olds.

9. From the start of the Flat Season until the end of the year, each racecourse must stage 21.5% of their race programme as Maiden, Novice or Conditions Races per quarter. Additionally, there is a minimum requirement of one such race per daily programme.

10. From January 1st to the day before the start of the Flat Season, each racecourse to stage one Maiden or Novice Race for every day's racing.

11. Any fixture must consist of at least six programmed races and these must include, unless the Total Prize Fund exceeds £100,000 for that day, a minimum of two of those races potentially liable to division under Rule (I)9.

12. For a programme of seven races, at least two races which are potentially liable to division must still be programmed albeit only one may be permitted to divide at the time determined in accordance with the Race Administration Code.

13. The Authority shall seek the agreement of the Racecourse Managing Executive if, in exercise of its general powers, the BHA proposes to waive the application of paragraph 10 (above) for a particular meeting.

General Restrictions on Flat Races

14. The Total Prize Fund of a Flat race may not be less than £4,300.

15. Standard handicaps must have a 20lb weight-range.

16. No flat race may be run over less distance than five furlongs. No flat race may be run over a distance in excess of two miles and six furlongs.

17. No horse may run in any race before having reached the age of two.

18. For the period starting on January 1st and ending on July 31st in any year, there must not be more than two flat races confined to two year olds in a programme of six races, or more than three such races in a programme of seven races.

19. On or after August 1st in any year, there must not be more than three flat races confined to two year olds in any programme.

20. Subject to paragraph 21 (below), no two year old may run before The Flat Season commences in any year:

- more than five furlongs until the Monday after the Newmarket Craven Meeting/Newbury Spring Trials (Greenham) Meeting, whichever is later,
- more than six furlongs before the Saturday after the York Dante Meeting,
- more than seven furlongs before August 1st,
- more than nine furlongs before September,
- in a Handicap Race before July 1st,

21. No two year old which, in the period starting on July 1st and ending on December 31st in any year, was foaled in the southern hemisphere may run:

- before September 16th;
- more than five furlongs before November 1st;
- more than six furlongs, or in a Handicap Race, at any time.

22. No three year old, which, in the period starting on July 1st and ending on December 31st in any year, was foaled in the southern hemisphere may run:

- more than seven furlongs before February 1st;

- more than eight furlongs before March 1st;
- more than nine furlongs before April 1st;
- more than ten furlongs, or in a Handicap Race with older horses, before July 1st.

23. No horse may carry more than 12st in a flat race. No account will be taken of:

- a jockey's allowance claimed in accordance with the Weights and Handicapping Code, or
- a weight allowance claimed in accordance with the conditions of a race.

24. Only races confined to apprentice jockeys or amateur jockeys will be allowed to specify any jockeys' allowances, outside of those provided for under Rule.

Minimum Requirements as to Races to be Included in a Jump Race Programme

25. There must be at least one Steeple Chase in each day's programme.

26. For every two days programmed there must be at least three Novice or Maiden or Juvenile Weight-for-Age Hurdle Races, excluding Selling Races, Claiming Races and Novice Handicap Hurdle Races (excluding fixtures taking place from March to August – see para 29).

27. For every day programmed from March to August, there must be at least one Novice or Maiden or Juvenile Weight-for-Age Hurdle Races, excluding Selling Races, Claiming Races and Novice Handicap Hurdle Races.

28. For every three days programmed (apart from mixed meetings) there must also be at least

- one race restricted to Fillies and/or Mares only, and
- one Novice or Maiden or Beginners' Weight-for-Age Steeple Chase or one Novices' Handicap Steeple Chase classified as Class 1, 2 or 3.

29. For every four days programmed (apart from mixed meetings) there must also be at least one National Hunt Flat Race

30. The programme of races must consist of at least six and no more than eight races except outside British Summer Time when there will be no more than seven races.

General Restrictions in Jump Racing

31. No horse may run in:

- a hurdle race until May 1st of the year in which it is three years old,
- a steeple chase until July 1st of the year in which it is four years old, or
- a Hunters' Steeple Chase until January 1st of the year in which it is five years old.

32. With effect from 1 April 2023, no horse may carry less than 10st 2lb in a hurdle race, steeple chase or National Hunt Flat Race unless:

    - a jockey's allowance is claimed in accordance with the Weights and Handicapping Code, or
    - the race is confined to Conditional Jockeys, as provided in the conditions of the race.

33. Only races confined to conditional jockeys will be allowed to specify any jockeys' allowances, outside of those provided for under Rule.

34. No steeple chase or hurdle race may be run over a distance of less than two miles.

35. No horse may carry more than 13st in a steeple chase, hurdle race or National Hunt Flat Race. No account will be taken of:

    - a jockey's allowance claimed in accordance with the Weights and Handicapping Code or
    - a weight allowance claimed in accordance with the conditions of the race.

National Hunt Flat Race

36. No horse may run in a National Hunt Flat Race

    - unless the horse is trained by a Person who is authorised (whether by licence, permit or otherwise) to train for steeple chases, hurdle races and National Hunt Flat Races;

37. The conditions of a National Hunt Flat Race must provide:

    - that the race is a Weight-for-Age Race which

        - is not less than one and a half miles,
        - is not more than two and a quarter miles,
        - is for horses which at starting have not run under any recognised Rules of flat racing, steeple chasing or hurdle racing, apart from in National Hunt Flat Races run under these Rules or in Irish National Hunt Flat Races or in French AQPS races.

    - that any jockey must be one of the following

        - a Conditional Jockey,
        - an Overseas Jockey whose authorisation by a Recognised Racing Authority corresponds to a Conditional Jockey's licence,
        - an Amateur Jockey who holds a Category B permit to ride granted by the Authority,
        - an Overseas Jockey whose authorisation by a Recognised Racing Authority corresponds to such a permit, and

- if the race is deemed to be 'Open', a Jockey who holds a licence to ride in steeple chases, hurdle races or National Hunt Flat Races or an Overseas Jockey whose authorisation by a Recognised Racing Authority corresponds to such a licence.

Hunters' Steeple Chases

38. With regard to Hunters' Steeple Chases:

    - no race may be run before January 1st of any season, and
    - the qualification in any race is limited to the particular period specified in the Hunters' Certificate.

Declarations to Run in Jump Races

39. Deleted

Weight Allowances for Horses – All Races

40. No weight allowance shall be made to any horse that is:

    - the produce of a stallion or mare whose produce never won a race;
    - the first produce of a mare;
    - the produce of a stallion covering at, or under, a particular fee; or
    - a half-bred.

41. The only circumstances under which a horse may be given a weight allowance or be relieved of extra weight because it has failed to win one or more races, are if the horse:

    - is a Maiden;
    - has not won within a specified time; or
    - has not won races of a specified value or distance.

Selling and Claiming Races

Sale Price

42. Where the Total Prize Fund is £6,000 or less, the selling price must not be less than £3,000.

43. Where the Total Prize Fund is more than £6,000, the selling price must not be less than £4,000.

44. In relation to a Selling Race, the commission retained by racecourses on the sale of any winning horse sold through the post-race auction, including those horses which are bought back by the existing trainer or owner, will be capped at 10% of the sale price. Racecourses do have the option to charge less than this if they wish. Details regarding the commission rate must be stated in the conditions of the race.

45. In respect of the sale of the winner in a Selling Race, the racecourse must act as guarantor for the final selling price.

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Advertised Claiming Price

46. In relation to a Claiming Race:

    - the maximum Advertised Claiming Price must not be less than the advertised Prize Money; and
    - the minimum Advertised Claiming Price must not be less than £2,000.

47. In relation to a Selling Race, the Advertised Claiming Price must not be less than the advertised selling price of the winner.

48. A weight allowance in accordance with the conditions of the race shall be included when the Owner is prepared to accept an Advertised Claiming Price below the maximum permissible Advertised Claiming Price laid down in the conditions of the race.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.2
Dtd 1 October 2019

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: FIXTURE FEES AND PAYMENTS
(previously in Rules of Racing)

FIXTURE FEES

1. When a fixture takes place, the Racecourse Managing Executive must pay to the Authority:

- fees of such amount as the Authority may from time to time decide; and
- fees in respect of the receipt of entries.

2. Unless the Authority directs otherwise, fees payable under paragraph 1 remain payable even if the fixture, or any part of it, is abandoned.

Date by which Payment to be Made

3. Unless payment is requested earlier, the following sums must be paid to the Stakeholder within 7 days of the Race or, if the last day for payment falls on a weekend or public holiday in Great Britain, on the next business day:

- any Prize Money;
- any payment required in connection with the control of advertising and sponsorship by the BHA;
- any VAT payable in respect of these sums.

Appearance Money

4. Where a racecourse decides to add their own Appearance Money payments into either the conditions of the race or the Total Race Value, these amounts must be clearly advertised in the race conditions and paid to connections in accordance with paragraph 3.

Races With More Prizes Than Declared Runners

5. If, after the deadline for Declarations to Run and before the Race is declared ‘Off’, a race has fewer declared runners than the number of placings to which money or prizes are due to be allocated, the surplus shall be deducted from the amount due from the Racecourse in relation to the Total Prize Fund for the Race.

Races Not Run Following the Making of a Division

6. After the payment of Prize Money and any refunds in relation to horses allocated to a division that was subsequently abandoned, any Stake money remaining shall be paid to the credit of the Race Division Fund.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.3
Dtd 1 October 2019

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: ENTRY FEES AND PRIZE MONEY
(previously in Rules of Racing)

ENTRY FEES

1. All fees payable in respect of entering into and running in a race must be in accordance with the scales laid down from time to time by the BHA.

2. The conditions of the race must state the fees relating to any race stage and the total liability for runners.

PRIZE MONEY

3. The minimum Total Prize Fund in a race must not be less than that laid down from time to time by the BHA.

4. No prize, outside of that payable under the Rules, may be offered to any person other than trainer, rider, stable staff or breeder without the prior approval of the BHA. Such prizes must be included in the conditions of the race and must not be included in the calculation of prize money for the race payable under the Rules.

5. Unless it is a prize already approved by the BHA under paragraph 4, the value of any non-monetary prize must be advertised.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.4
Dtd 1 October 2019

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: PARADES
(previously in Rules of Racing)

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1. A parade is mandatory and must be advertised in the conditions of the race in:

- each Group 1 flat race (subject to paragraph 2), and
- each Grade 1 jump race which is not a Grade 1 novice or Juvenile jump race.

but, where there are two or more such races on a racecard, a parade is mandatory in the principal race only.

2. There shall be no parades in races confined to two years old or any flat race less than seven furlongs.

3. A parade is optional in all other races but, where a Racecourse Managing Executive wishes to exercise the option of having a parade, permission must be sought from the Authority's Jump Racing or Flat Racing Committee respectively.

4. The Racecourse Managing Executive is responsible for deciding upon the order in which the parade is to take place e.g. race card or non-race card order/10 second release/led to the half furlong marker/to beyond the winning post etc..

5. In order to ensure all persons involved in the parade are aware of the order:

- The conditions of the parade order must be specified in the race card;
- Notices detailing the conditions must be published on the notice board in the weighing room.
- The Stewards must be advised of the conditions at the Raceday Team Briefing and confirmation provided of the person responsible for organising the runners;

NOTE: Where, in exceptional circumstances, changes have to be made to the published details of parades, the Stewards must be notified.

6. Permission for any privileges in the parade e.g. early to post, must be requested through the Stewards.

7. A parade may be assisted by one or more outriders at the front or rear.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.5
Dtd 1 April 2023

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: RACING CALENDAR AND PROGRAMME BOOK PROOFS
(previously BHAGI 2.1)

Racing Calendar Proofs

1. The Racing Calendar Proofs are to completed on the NRAS software to the deadlines laid out in Proofing Schedule section of Race Management.

Programme Book Proofs

2. These proofs are made available to the nominated representative of the Managing Executive approximately 5 months before the commencement of the period covered by the Programme Book in question for all meetings which are to be included in that Book. The proofs must be returned to the Racing Department with such amendments as are required by the date stipulated.

General

3. All proofs will be made electronically via the NRAS software and must be returned to the Racing Department in the same manner.

4. The Managing Executive is responsible for ensuring that accurate copy of race programmes and all related information including Safety Factors (as issued by the Racecourse Department) is received by the Racing Department.

5. Failure to return proofs, as stipulated above, either for the Racing Calendar or for Programme Books, is a breach of this Instruction. In this event the BHA will make such decisions about the content of programmes or race conditions as they consider appropriate **without reference** to the relevant Managing Executive in order to ensure timely publication.

6. A change made at the request of a racecourse to race conditions, after the original publication of the programme, **will result in a charge** unless the circumstances are shown to be outside the control of that racecourse.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.6
Dtd 1 April 2023

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: STAKES/CLOSING DATES/SUPPLEMENTARY ENTRIES
(previously BHAGI 2.2)

Stakes - Flat Races

1. The stakes for all Flat races, other than Pattern races, are to be not more than 0.5% of the Total Prize Fund.

2. The stakes for all Pattern races are to be not more than:

Group 1 – 1% of the Total Prize Fund;
Group 2 – 0.85% of the Total Prize Fund;
Group 3 – 0.7% of the Total Prize Fund.

Except for racecourses which have signed a Premier Prize Money Agreement, in which case the stakes for all Pattern races are not to be more than:

Group 1 – 1.25% of the Total Prize Fund;
Group 2 – 1.00% of the Total Prize Fund;
Group 3 – 1.00% of the Total Prize Fund.

3. Except by special permission of the BHA, the stakes in Early Closing races will be split:

a) **Races closing between 9 weeks and 10 months before running:**

If two scratching deadline stages, no more than 25% at entry, the combined entry and payment if not scratched by the first scratching deadline must not exceed 50%, balance spread between the payment if not scratched by the second scratching deadline and confirmation stages;

If one scratching deadline stage, no more than 25% at entry, balance spread between the payment if not scratched by the scratching deadline and confirmation stages;

b) **Races closing between 4 weeks and 8 weeks 6 days before running:**

No more than 35% at entry, balance spread between scratching deadline and confirmation stages;

c) **Races closing between 16 and 22 days before running:**

30% at entry, balance at confirmation stage.

Stakes - Steeple Chases, Hurdle Races and National Hunt Flat Races

4. The stakes for all Steeple Chases and Hurdle races and National Hunt Flat races are to be not more than 0.5% of the Total Prize Fund.

5. Except by special permission of the BHA, the stakes in Early Closing races will be split:

a) **Races closing 4 or more weeks before running:**

Not more than 25% at entry, balance spread between scratching deadline and confirmation stages;

b) **Races closing between 16 and 22 days before running:**

30% at entry, balance at confirmation stage.

Closing Dates

6. Except by special permission of the BHA, the following restrictions will apply to the closing dates of races:

Flat Races

a) Group 1 races to close no more than 9 weeks before running, with the exception of the Derby;

b) Group 2 races to close no more than 7 weeks before running;

c) Heritage Handicaps to close no more than 6 weeks before running;

d) With the exception of any other race with a Total Prize Fund of £100,000 or more, all other races will close 5 or 6 days before running;

e) Group 1 and Group 2 races confined to 2 year olds to close no more than 7 weeks before running.

Jump Races

f) With the exception of Pattern races or any other race with a Total Prize Fund of £50,000 or more, all races will close 5 or 6 days before running.

Supplementary Entries

7.

Flat Races

a) Group 1 races that close more than 12 weeks before running must provide for supplementary entries in the race conditions.

b) Any other early closing Group 1 or Group 2 race may provide for supplementary entries in the race conditions at the option of the Managing Executive.

The cost of the supplementary entry shall not exceed 10% of the Total Prize Fund but shall be sufficient such as to make this route relatively unattractive (i.e. ideally more than 5%).

Jump Races

c) Any early closing Grade 1 Jump Pattern race may provide for supplementary entries in the race conditions at the option of the Managing Executive.

d) Any other non-early closing Grade 1 or Grade 2 race may provide for supplementary entries in the race conditions at the option of the Managing Executive. Such supplementary entries will close at 12 noon, 72 hours prior to the race.

The cost of the supplementary entry shall not exceed 5% of the Total Prize Fund but shall be sufficient such as to make this route relatively unattractive. In the case of rescheduled races which contain provision for a supplementary entry, the supplementary entry may be reduced down to 2.5% of the Total Prize Fund.

Note: A portion of the supplementary entry payment which is equal to the full stake payable through the early entry system shall be included within the Total Prize Fund. The latest full stake will be used where more than one entry stage is advertised. The remainder of the supplementary payment will not form part of the total Prize Money the racecourse guarantees to be available for distribution in a Total Prize Fund race, but shall be added to the total Prize Money.

Normal Closers

8. Handicap races closing 5 or 6 days before running may include a split entry fee at the option of the Managing Executive.

a) Horses rated within the advertised rating range in **Flat** races will be required to pay 100% of the advertised stake. Horses rated below the advertised rating range of the race will be permitted to enter and will pay 20% of the advertised stake at entry and the remaining 80% stake if declaring to run.

b) Horses rated within 26lb of the advertised upper rating band of the race in **Jump** races will be required to pay 100% of the advertised stake. Horses rated 27lb or more below the advertised upper rating band of the race will be permitted to enter and will pay 20% of the advertised stake at entry and the remaining 80% stake if declaring to run.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.7
Dtd 1 April 2023

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: ADVERTISED VALUES
(previously BHAGI 2.3)

Criteria Fixtures

1. All races run at Criteria fixtures shall have advertised values within the appropriate minimum and maximum values where applicable.

Total Prize Funds

2. Except with the permission of the BHA, races must be advertised as Total Prize Fund races.

Non-Criteria Fixtures

3. All races classified in Classes 1 and 2 run at Non-Criteria fixtures shall have advertised values within the appropriate minimum and maximum values, as determined by the BHA for races run at Criteria fixtures. All races run at these fixtures in Classes 3 and below shall not be governed by any such arrangements but shall have their advertised values approved by the BHA.

Note: Criteria, and Non-Criteria fixtures are fixtures, which have been so designated within the criteria promulgated by the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.8
Dtd 1 October 2019

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: RACE PROGRAMMING
(previously BHAGI 2.4)

Flat Pattern Races

1. Any changes to Flat Pattern races, or proposals to upgrade a Listed race to within the Pattern, must be agreed by the Flat Pattern Committee and subsequently approved by the BHA Board and, where appropriate, the European Pattern Committee.

Jump Pattern Races

2. Any changes to races within the Jump Pattern must be agreed by the Jump Pattern Committee and subsequently approved by the BHA Board.

Apprentice Races

3. Except with the permission of the Racing Department, all Racecourses staging Flat races shall have at least one race confined to Apprentice Jockeys for every 4 days' Flat racing.

4. In Apprentice races, it is recommended to include an allowance(s) for less experienced jockeys.

Conditional Jockeys

5. Except with the permission of the Racing Department, all Racecourses staging Jump racing shall have at least one Hurdle race or Steeple Chase confined to Conditional Jockeys for every 3 days' Jump racing, excluding Mixed days.

6. Such race(s) may NOT be a Steeple Chase confined to Maidens or Novices. No restriction is to be placed on the number of winners which jockeys may have ridden but it is recommended to include allowances for less experienced jockeys.

Brush Hurdle Races

7. Whenever a racecourse wishes to programme a race involving the use of the Brush Hurdle prior approval to do so must be obtained from the Racing Group.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.10
Dtd 28 March 2026

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: RACE TITLES
(previously BHAGI 2.6)

Race Titles

1. The following information shall be incorporated into the title of every race or stated after the title as an adjunct to it:

(i) Type of race (Excluding Pattern races referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 below);*

(ii) Group or Grade category (for Flat or Jump Pattern races only);

(iii) Fact of Listed status;

(iv) Fact of restriction of jockeys to Apprentices, Conditional Jockeys or Amateur Jockeys;*

(v) Fact of restriction to fillies and mares only;*

(vi) Race Classification.

Note 1: Standard Handicaps and Open Maidens should be described simply as Handicaps or Maidens in their titles.

Note 2: * Indicates information which may be incorporated in brackets after the main body of the title.

2. The titles of all Pattern and Listed races are to include a permanent word to establish the continuity of the race (the 'race handle'). A sponsor's name may be added as a prefix or a suffix to, but is not to replace the established race handle. In the case of Flat Group 3 and Listed races and all Jump Grade 2 and Listed races, the race handle may appear in brackets after the title, preceded by 'Registered as ….'

3. In the case of any newly created Flat Group 2s a race handle may be referred to as 'Registered as' until that particular sponsorship deal is terminated, at which time the race handle must be incorporated within the main title. In the case of existing races which are upgraded to Flat Group 2 status, the race handle may remain as 'Registered as' at the specific request of the existing sponsor, until that particular sponsorship deal is terminated, at which stage the permanent race handle must be incorporated within the main title.

4. The titles of existing sponsored Flat and Jump Pattern and Listed races which have no established name may remain unaltered until the sponsorship is renewed or terminated. At this point a race handle is to be added.

5. If a race is named after King Edward VII, a member of their family or any descendent of them by birth or marriage who bears or bore a Royal title, the name of any sponsor of the race shall appear after the name or title of the royal personage in question.

6. The title of any race must be deemed by the Racing Department to be appropriate and sensible in its content and structure. Race titles potentially deemed to be carrying a political message will be considered inappropriate.

7. Race titles must be limited to a maximum of 50 characters (including spaces), excluding race type and conditions-related words such as 'two-years-old', 'E.B.F.' and Race handles, unless approval has been granted in exceptional circumstances by the Racing Department to waive this requirement.

8. In the case of Race handles in non-Pattern and Listed races, racecourses may apply to register a handle with the Racing Department. Once registered this handle may not be changed within five years, unless approval has been granted in exceptional circumstances by the Racing Department to waive this requirement.

9. Race titles advertising website addresses must not include standard URL prefixes such as 'http://' or 'www'.

10. The repetition of a race title where the race types are identical must be avoided.

11. Race titles containing premium-rate telephone numbers or SMS numbers will not be permitted.

12. Managing Executives should also be mindful of the overuse of text pages and telephone numbers in race titles in view of the problems they create for both commentators and the media, and the likelihood that, in consequence, the race title could be abbreviated or omitted altogether.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.11
Dtd 29 March 2025

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO SPECIAL RACES
(previously BHAGI 2.7)

General

1. The parameters relating to the acceptability and operation of certain 'special' races are set out below.

Races Restricted to Horses Sold at Specific Auctions

2. The conditions and date of the race must be acceptable to the Racing Department.

3. The added money must come from the Racecourse or sponsorship funds rather than being financed from a sales pool levied upon either the vendors or purchasers at the sales.

4. The race must be staged as an additional race and must not replace an existing opportunity for the horse population.

5. Subject to the discretion of the Racing Group, only one such race restricted to a specific auction may be staged in any particular year.

Handicap Hunters' Steeple Chases

6. Permission to stage a Handicap Hunters' Steeple Chase must be sought from the Racing Group prior to programming.

7. The race must be run as an Open handicap, without any rating restriction and must meet the minimum prize money meritocracy level for a Class 3 Steeple Chase.

8. The race must be restricted to horses which have run in three Hunters' Steeple Chases since the start of the previous calendar year and which have not won a Class 1 or 2 Steeple Chase since the start of the previous calendar year.

9. The race must be staged as an additional race and must not replace an existing opportunity for the horse population.

Series and Series Sponsorship

10. Application must be made to the Racing Department of any projected Series at the earliest planning stage so that it may be considered by the Racing Group.

BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.11
Dtd 29 March 2025

11. All new Race Series Finals must be programmed at a minimum of Class 2 and have a minimum total prize fund of £30,000 (or £40,000 for all Race Series Finals from 1 April 2026 onwards) in order to be considered.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.12
Dtd 28 March 2026

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR RACE TIMES AND ORDER OF RUNNING
(previously BHAGI 2.8)

Race Times

1. At all meetings other than floodlit meetings, the last race is to be timed to start not later than 10 minutes before sunset.

2. Normally, there is to be an advertised interval of 30 (the minimum) or 35 minutes between races. The nominated representative of the Managing Executive must apply to the Racing Department for this to be reduced to 25 minutes in special circumstances, but this shorter interval will normally only be agreed for one of the first two intervals of an evening Flat meeting.

3. When an afternoon/evening has three meetings they should be programmed to have 10 minute intervals between their respective advertised race times.

In exceptional circumstances, and after discussion with the Managing Executive concerned, the Racing Department will set appropriate advertised race times in order to prevent a serious clash of 5 minutes or less between two or more meetings, doing everything possible to avoid moving the first race time earlier.

Alteration of Advertised Race Times

4. When a race or race meeting is abandoned or otherwise impacted by external events, at short notice it may be desirable for the advertised race times at that race meeting, or another meeting(s) taking place on the same day to be altered to produce the best possible pattern of racing and restore regular intervals between races and /or account for the change in circumstances.

In such scenarios one of two approaches may be followed:

5. a) Where the matter has arisen before 10:30 on the day before Racing, the Racing Department will contact the nominated representative of the Managing Executive concerned and may request that the advertised race times are altered.

   Updates will be made so that such altered race times become the new official advertised times and will appear in all publications from that point.

   Such an alteration could change the race time to earlier or later than originally advertised.

5. b) Where the matter has arisen after 10:30 on the day before Racing, subject to the agreement of the Managing Executive and, the Stewards of the Meeting, the Stewards of the Meeting, the Racing Department will request a delay to the published race time, which will remain unaltered. Races will not be requested to be run earlier than

advertised race time under this approach.

6. In both scenarios, the Racing Department will duly notify the media (if time permits), SIS, TRP, Betting Operators, Data and Integrity Service Providers and the Racing Calendar Office.

The nominated representative of the Managing Executive must, in turn, ensure that all relevant personnel at the racecourse are notified of the revised race times together with ensuring that appropriate public announcements are made. In particular, they must ensure that the Stewards are fully informed

7. These procedures will only operate when it is determined that the change in circumstances since the publication of declarations merits either an alteration or a delay to the advertised race times in the view of the BHA

Special Considerations Regarding Order of Running

8. Races restricted to two years old should be placed as early as possible in the order of running and no weight-for-age race restricted to Novices or Maidens of any age should be placed last on a programme.

9. Selling or Claiming races are not to be placed as the last race on the programme.

10. Wherever possible, the following should be complied with:

a) the respective distance of races and the position of the start to be taken into account in compiling a meeting's order of running to assist in ensuring that races start on time;
b) Apprentice, Conditional or Amateur races (Hunters' Chases excepted, see part c)) to be placed first on any programme in order that they may vacate the weighing room in a timely manner;
c) Hunters' Steeple Chases to be placed as the last Steeple Chase on a programme

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.13
Dtd 1 April 2023

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: RACE ABANDONMENT AT FIVE DAY ENTRY STAGE/ RE-OPENED RACES AT ENTRY (previously BHAGI 2.9)

Race Abandonment – Scope

1. Any race which is not a Pattern, Listed, Early Closing race or the final of a race Series and which receives fewer than 5 entries may be abandoned by the Managing Executive. (Note: An entry for a horse which is not qualified at the time of entry shall not count). Before a race is abandoned the Managing Executive must contact the Trainers of the entered horses to ascertain their intentions to run. The Managing Executive will then, in conjunction with the Racing Department, decide whether the race is to be abandoned.

2. The BHA has instructed that only one race on any card may be abandoned in this way, but will waive this restriction in exceptional circumstances.

Race Abandonment - Procedure

3. In the event that the Managing Executive does wish to abandon a race, the nominated representative of the Managing Executive must notify the Racing Department, Tel (0207 152 0050) **as soon as possible**, and no later than 11:00am on the day after the race in question has closed.

Note: Should a race be abandoned, the Weatherbys Racing Operations Department will inform all Trainers who hold an entry for that race of the decision.

4. When a race is abandoned after having received fewer than 5 entries, it must be replaced by dividing the weight-for-age race on the same card with the highest number of entries. The divided race may not be a Pattern, Listed, or an Early Closing race. In exceptional circumstances a race other than a weight-for-age race may be divided but only with the express permission of the Racing Department. If the race to be divided is more valuable than the race which has been abandoned, the Managing Executive must provide the additional prize money to run the division of this race at its advertised value.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.14
Dtd 1 April 2023

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: DIVISION OF RACES, ELIMINATION OF RUNNERS, REVISIONS TO ORDER OF RUNNING AFTER DECLARATION
(previously BHAGI 2.10)

Division of Races or Elimination of Runners

1. Unless advised otherwise the Racing Calendar Office will divide or eliminate to the Safety Factor and the Field Size Limits published in the race conditions in the Racing Calendar.

Provisional Times

2. The Clerk of the Course or their nominated representative must ascertain the number of entries for each race on the days on which entries (other than for early closing races) close either by reference to racingadmin.co.uk, or by telephoning the Weatherbys Racing Operations Department (01933 440011) between 2:30pm and 4:30pm. When it appears likely that the division of a race under Rule (I)9 will be necessary the Clerk of the Course or their nominated representative must give provisional times for the additional divisions to the Weatherbys Racing Operations Department (01933 440011) as soon as possible but no later than the time fixed for declarations under the Race Entry Code (REC), para 33. Failure to do this will cause the Racing Department to set the advertised race time(s) for the additional division(s).

3. At all fixtures where a race division takes place, this will generally lead to a later race being scheduled, unless prohibited from doing so by sunset times. Should racecourses wish to seek an earlier start, they must contact the Racing Department, and should the date of declaration fall on a weekend or Bank Holiday, prior approval should be sought.

4. In exceptional circumstances, and after discussion with the Managing Executive concerned, the Racing Department will set an appropriate time for the extra division(s) in order to prevent an unacceptable gap or clash with race times at other meetings.

Changes to Order of Running after Declaration to Run

5. The BHA will not normally authorise a change to the order of running of races after the time fixed for declaration to run under the REC, para 33 unless the procedures outlined below have been invoked. If exceptional circumstances prevail, application may be made to the BHA Racing Operations Manager for the order of running of races to be altered. This request should be made as soon as possible but no later than 1 hour after the time for declaration to run. If the request relates to racing on a Monday, the request should be directed to the Weatherbys Racing Operations Department (01933 440011). It should also be understood that if the request is approved, and it therefore necessitates the Weatherbys Racing Operations Department advising a number of Trainers that their race is being run earlier or later than the advertised time, a fee to cover the cost of telephoning the Trainers will be charged. The latter provision does not apply when a race is divided.

6. Where seven or fewer horses are declared to run, the time for declarations shall be extended as referred to in the REC, para 37 but the race in question will retain its position in the order of running provided more than one horse is declared to run. If only one horse is declared to run the race will be placed last on the programme. If a race receives no declarations to run, despite the application of the time extension, the race will be declared void

Walk Overs

7. A Walk-Over may take place at a practicable time either before the first race or after the last race e.g. 15 minutes. However, where a Walk-Over occurs due to non-runners on race-day the Walk-Over must still take place at the advertised time.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.15
Dtd 26 March 2022

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: SPONSORSHIP OF RACES
(previously BHAGI 2.11)

Sponsorship Details

1. Managing Executives are required to complete the annual prize money analysis issued by the Racing Calendar Office. This print out requires the Managing Executive to confirm race sponsorship figures from the previous year.

Penalty Value

2. By the date fixed for entry or, in early closing races, confirmation of entries, it must be possible to ascertain from the conditions the full value of the race to the winner. However, in cases where a race is transferred to another racecourse due to abandonment the full value of the race may be subject to alteration. Except by permission of the BHA, the winning owner is not to receive from the sponsor, either directly or indirectly, any monies save those permitted by Stakes and Prize Money Code or under any controls for sponsorship approved by the BHA.

Series Sponsorship

3. ~~Application must be made to the Racing Department of any projected series at the earliest planning stage so that it may be considered by the Racing Group~~
Race Series – moved to BHAGI 2.11 paras 10 & 11

Sponsored Attendants' Clothing

4. Whenever attendants' clothing is going to be provided by the race sponsors it should be included in or added to the race conditions. If unable to add to the race conditions because it is past the 'post published changes' time, trainers with runners at the meeting/race (as applicable) must be advised directly.

5. The only two meetings where the acceptance of attendants' clothing is compulsory are the Aintree Grand National Festival and the Epsom Derby Festival. At all other meetings where attendants' clothing is provided racecourses must ensure that staff are fully aware that accepting and wearing the clothing is not mandatory and that they should not accept any clothing unless they are carrying another form of sponsorship relating to their owner/yard.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.16
Dtd 1 October 2019

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: CUPS OR TROPHIES
(previously BHAGI 2.12)

Races with a Total Prize Fund of £25,000 or more

1. Any cup or trophy offered in such races may either be classed as:

(i) optional and included in the prize money;

(ii) treated as an additional trophy and excluded from prize money.

Unless the BHA gives permission for a higher value, any cup or trophy shall not exceed £2,000 or 5% of the Total Prize Fund, whichever is the lesser amount. Where permission is given, the BHA must be provided with proof of purchase in order to ascertain the exact value of the trophy.

Sponsored Races and those with a Total Prize Fund of £6,000 or more

2. If a cup or trophy is to be awarded in these races it will either be classed as optional or additional.

3. Optional cups or trophies will be valued at no more than 5% of the Total Prize Fund of the race in question and their acceptance will be dependant upon completion of the form detailed in Annex A.

Note: For the purposes of this Instruction a race is not deemed to be sponsored unless a minimum of £500 is added by the sponsor.

Unsponsored Races with a Total Prize Fund of up to £5,999

4. Except with permission of the BHA, such races will only offer cups or trophies classed as mementoes on the basis laid down in paragraph 5, below. The award of the memento will also be included in the race conditions.

Mementoes

5. Additional cups or trophies must be described as mementoes in the conditions of the race. They will be:

a) of no stated value;

b) not included in the prize money.

Note: The form set out in Annex B is not applicable to such mementoes.

6. Managing Executives may alternatively offer owners of winners in any race with no cup or trophy the opportunity to purchase a memento for not more than 5% of the Total Prize Fund. These will have to be paid for by owners immediately on the day unless the Managing Executive either wishes to use the form detailed in Annex B or invoices the owners.

Challenge Cups

7. Challenge Cups not permanently retained by the owner are outside the scope of this Instruction.

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Acceptance of Optional Cup or Trophy — Annex A
Purchase of a Memento — Annex B

Annex A to BHAGI 2.16
Dtd 1 October 2019

ACCEPTANCE OF AN OPTIONAL CUP OR TROPHY

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name of Racecourse: .....

Name of Race: .....

Date of Race: .....

Name of Owner: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

I confirm my wish to accept the optional cup or trophy offered in connection with this race to the value of £ …….. (plus V.A.T.) and authorise the Stakeholder to deduct this sum from the prize money. I understand that under the Rules of the British Horseracing Authority I am under no obligation to accept this cup or trophy.

Signed: .....

(Owner/Owner's representative)

If signed by Owner's Representative, Name in Block Capitals:

.....

Note: IF THE CUP OR TROPHY IS RETURNED WITHIN 7 DAYS NO DEDUCTION FROM PRIZE MONEY WILL BE MADE.

Note: If you are VAT-registered, the VAT on this trophy is unlikely to be re-claimable. It is advised that you check with your local H.M. Revenue & Customs Office

Annex B to BHAGI 2.16
Dtd 1 October 2019

PURCHASE OF A MEMENTO

(PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name of Racecourse: .....

Name of Race: .....

Date of Race: .....

Name of Owner: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

I confirm my wish to purchase a memento for £ ……. (plus V.A.T.) and authorise The British Horseracing Authority/Weatherbys to debit this sum to my account. I understand that under the Rules of the British Horseracing Authority I am under no obligation to make this purchase.

Signed: .....

Owner/Owner's representative

If signed by Owner's Representative, Name in Block Capitals:

.....

Note: If you are VAT-registered, the VAT on this trophy is unlikely to be re-claimable. It is advised that you check with your local H.M. Revenue & Customs Office.

BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.17
Dtd 1 October 2019

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: FIELD SIZE LIMITS
(previously BHAGI 2.13)

Adjustment of Field Size Limit

1. If a Managing Executive wishes to adjust the Field Size Limit for any race(s) application to do so must be made to the Racing Department in writing, citing the reasons, no later than one month prior to the publication of the race(s) conditions in the Racing Calendar.

Race Exemptions from Field Size Limits

2. A Managing Executive may apply to the Racing Department for any race with a Total Prize Fund in excess of £30,000 to be exempt from the imposition of a Field Size Limit, subject to compliance with the Safety Factor for the race. Such application must be made in writing no later than one month prior to the publication of the race conditions in the Racing Calendar.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.18
Dtd 1 October 2019

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: RESERVES
(previously BHAGI 2.14)

Races Eligible for the Inclusion of Reserves

1. A Managing Executive may apply to the Racing Department for the inclusion of reserves in those races which are classified as follows:

(i) Group 1 Flat races;

(ii) Heritage Handicaps;

(iii) Grade 3 Jump Handicaps with 48-hour declarations.

2. An application for the inclusion of reserves in any other race, or any deviation from the conditions as set out below, must be made to the Racing Department at the earliest planning stage so that it may be considered by the Racing Group in advance of publication of the race conditions.

Determination of Reserves

3. The race conditions must stipulate the maximum number of runners and the maximum number of reserves.

4. The trainers of horses which may be eliminated from the race must indicate at the declaration stage whether they are prepared for their horse to be a reserve. If a trainer does not make any such indication and cannot be contacted immediately after the declaration stage, the horse will not stand as a reserve.

5. In the event that the number of declared horses exceeds the maximum number of runners, reserves will be selected from amongst those which are subject to elimination and have confirmed to the Racing Calendar Office that they are prepared to stand as a reserve, in order of their position in the elimination sequence (in handicaps, as most recently adjusted to take account of penalties). Where two or more horses have identical ratings or assessments in a weight-for-age race or identical weights in a handicap race, their position in the elimination sequence will have been allocated by random ballot.

6. The reserves will be placed in order in accordance with the elimination sequence, with the first reserve being the reserve with the highest elimination sequence number. Each reserve will be given its own racecard number. For the avoidance of any doubt, in a race with a safety factor of 30 and three reserves, the first reserve would be allotted a racecard number of 31, the second reserve 32 and the third reserve 33.

7. When making the draw for Flat races, a reserve will be allotted a draw position. This position would be removed from the Starting Stalls in the event that the reserve does not run. For the avoidance of any doubt, in a race with a safety factor of 30

and three reserves, the declared horses including the reserves would be allotted a draw between 1 and 33.

Replacement of a Declared Runner with a Reserve

8. In the event of a non-runner being notified to the Racing Calendar Office by 1:00pm on the day before the race, the first reserve will replace that non-runner.

9. If there are further non-runners by this time, the remaining reserves will replace those horses in the same way.

10. Declarations of riders for any reserves which obtain a run will be required by 1:30pm the day before the race.

11. In handicap races in which a reserve has been afforded the opportunity to run, weights will be raised at 1:00pm on the day before the race in the same manner as at the 48-hour declaration stage if there are any relevant non-runners notified to the Racing Calendar Office by that time. Should the weights be raised at this time, revised declaration of riders will be accepted for all declared runners up to 1:30pm on the same day.

12. All payments made prior to the race for any horse which is eliminated or is a reserve and was subsequently not afforded the opportunity to run shall be returned.

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BHA GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

BHAGI 2.19
Dtd 4 October 2021

To: Managing Executives
From: Chief Executive
Subject: The Draw - Special Conditions

Special Conditions Relating to Non-Standard Draws in Flat Races

1. A racecourse may apply to the Racing Department for dispensation to conduct a manual draw for a Class 2 Flat race, in place of the standard automated draw. Any such application must be submitted in writing in advance of the race appearing in the Racing dispensation is granted, the draw to be conducted as follows:

1. Draw to be held as soon as possible after Declarations close at 10am

2. Draw to be filmed and televised live

3. Horses to be drawn one at a time, followed by either:

   a) A further draw indicating the stall number

   b) The stall to be selected by the Owner, Trainer or their representative, one of which must be present. (Separate protocols exist for this type of draw and are available from the Racing Department if required).

4. Numbers and horses to be printed on balls (or similar), to be placed inside casings or any such object as can be fairly and randomly mixed without numbers being outwardly visible.

5. The drum or bowl to hold the horses and stall numbers to be regularly and thoroughly turned or mixed throughout the draw.

6. Equipment to be put in place at least one week prior to the draw and signed off as suitable by the Racing Department.

7. A member of the Racing Department (or representative) be present to adjudicate over the draw, with the authority to make any alterations as necessary or order a re-draw on the day, if he/she has any concerns over the validity of the draw.

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