

BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

TRANSFER OF RACE SURFACE ON THE DAY POLICY

1. In a scenario when the racing surface is deemed unraceable, where appropriate and as agreed by the BHA, a switch of race surface on the day of the race would be permitted.
2. This policy only deals with the change of surface on the day of the fixture and when horses and paying customers will either be at or travelling to the racecourse. All other transfer of surfaces will be dealt with in advance by the Racing Department as per the Fixture Policy.
3. Such a switch would only be possible where a racecourse has an All-Weather and a Turf surface. It is technically possible that the switch could be from the All-Weather to Turf during the turf season, however the primary expectation is that it is most likely that any such change of surface would involve a turf race switching to the all-weather.
4. In order for such a switch to be initiated, a Going/Ground enquiry must be held, with the final decision to be made by the BHA Stewards in determining whether or not the originally programmed surface was suitable for racing and that switching to the alternative available surface was appropriate. Such a decision could be made from two hours before racing begins up until the last race has been run.
5. **For the avoidance of doubt, such a decision to allow a switch of surface would only be permitted in the scenario where otherwise the ground is determined to be unraceable and therefore the fixture would be abandoned.** This is not intended to allow a surface switch either to provide better ground or in light of a poor weather forecast alone.
6. Depending on the time of the day when the transfer of surface was announced, this could lead to races being delayed compared with the advertised race times. It may not be possible to move a full card from one surface to another because of sunset times. In such a scenario running orders will remain the same and the stewards can agree a number of options with the clerk of the course:
 - a. Running orders to remain the same and races later on the card which cannot fit in before sunset to be abandoned
 - b. Running orders to remain the same but a reduced gap between races with the intention of running all races. Latter races on the card may still have to be abandoned.
 - c. Any feature races to be prioritised to run. It will not be possible to change running orders, so any races prior to the feature may have to be abandoned.
7. However, in any such scenario, no race can be run earlier than its scheduled off time
8. Race distances vary slightly between the turf and all-weather tracks, and so any race would always be moved to the closest available start. The following sets out the race distance changes that would be approved specifically for Lingfield.

Turf	AWT
5f	5f
6f	6f
7f	7f
7f 135y	1m

1m 1f	1m
1m 2f	1m 2f
1m 3f 133y	1m 4f
1m 5f	1m 5f
1m 6f	1m 5f
2m 68y	1m 7f 169y
2m 4f 44y	1m 7f 169y

9. Race weights and conditions would remain as originally published.
 - a. Although horses may have a different All-Weather Handicap mark compared to their Turf Handicap Mark, **all runners would run off their mark for the turf race as published in the racecard.**

10. Unless the trainer (or their representatives) advises otherwise, horses would run following the transfer of the surface. In other words, an 'opt-out' principle would apply, as follows:
 - a. Having announced the transfer of surface, there would be a 30-minute window during which trainers would inform the Clerk of the Scales should they wish to withdraw their horse due to the change of surface. At the end of that window, all withdrawals would be notified in accordance with the standard practices for dealing with on course withdrawals.
 - b. Any such withdrawals would be permitted without penalty.
 - c. Entry fees would be refunded to the owners of all entered horses other than those that run following the change of surface.
 - d. Riding fees would be payable to jockeys
 - e. The withdrawal of any horse that had already been declared a non-runner would stand.
 - i. For the avoidance of a doubt, having already been announced as a non-runner, a horse could not be added back into the race following the transfer of surface.

11. Having removed any horses that opted against running following the change of surface, if there were still too many runners;
 - a. horses for handicaps would be eliminated in racecard order, with the highest racecard numbers (i.e. those horses lowest in the handicap ratings) eliminated first, until the appropriate field size is delivered.
 - b. horses for WFA races would be subject to the original elimination sequence run by Weatherbys. Such a sequence will be provided following declarations to the Clerk of the Course and Clerk of the Scales

12. The original draw would apply.

13. All horses would be required to wear any headgear that had originally been declared prior to the change of surface.