

CHANGES TO JUMP STARTS

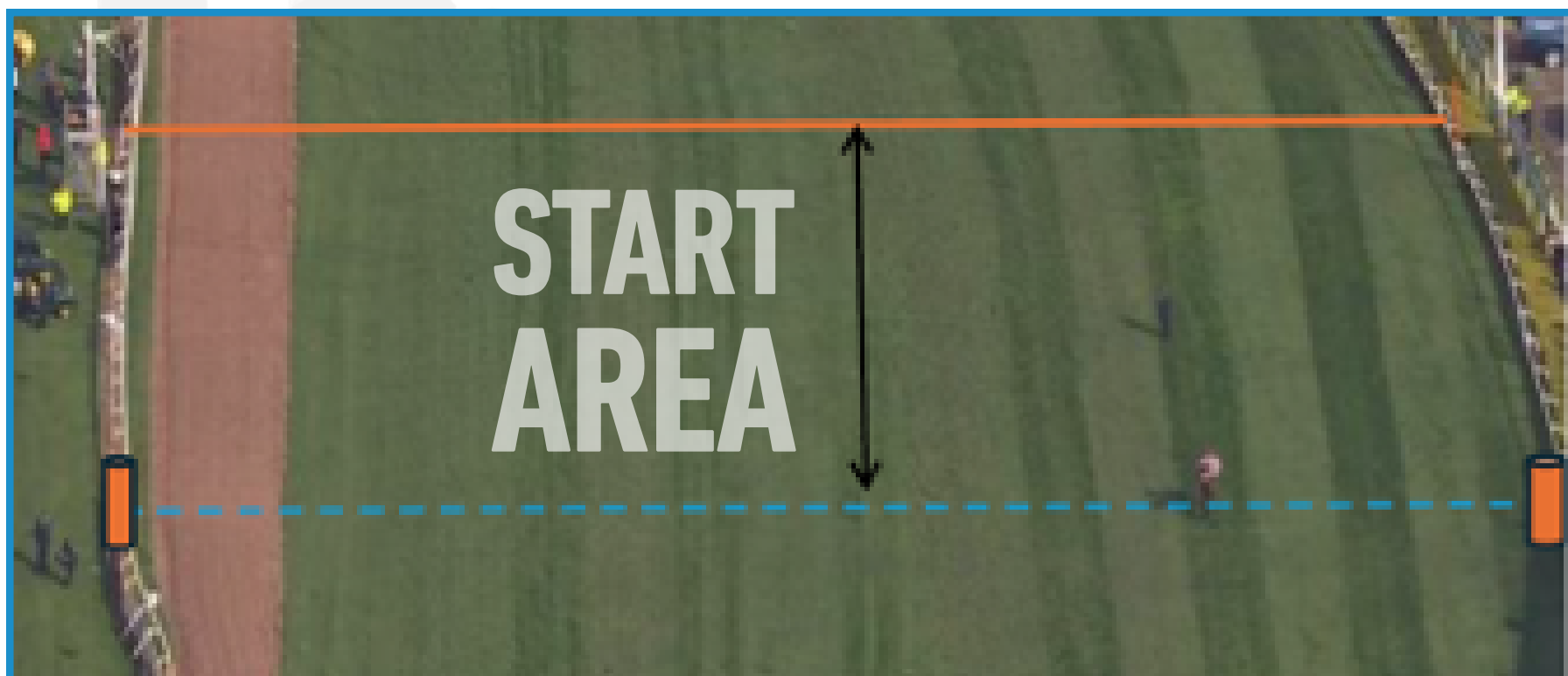
From 5 October we will be changing the way that races are started at all British Jump fixtures.

New starting rules will be introduced on a trial basis to help make things clearer and more consistent for jockeys and starters.

These changes will help ensure that starts are more controlled and hopefully reduce false starts, especially at major festivals. The main changes are:

A NEW START AREA

Races will only be allowed to start when the front rank of the field has entered a designated start area.



New orange marker poles will be placed up to 40 yards back from the existing poles on the start line. Everything in between these marker poles is the start area.

The race will not be permitted to start until the **front rank** of horses has entered the start area and the flag is dropped.

Jockeys are asked to not anticipate the start. The flag drop is the **only** indication of the start being effected.

APPROACH AT A WALKING PACE

The field must approach the tape at no faster than a walking pace, not at a 'jig-jog' as has previously been the case.

It remains the case that horses that have fallen behind the main group may trot until they catch up with the field.

If a horse takes off in front of the field at anything faster than a walk, then it is likely that a false start will be called.

FALSE STARTS

These new processes aim to help reduce the number of false starts.

If a first start is aborted, horses will be sent back to the beginning of the start area where the starter will have discretion to allow another walk in attempt, or go immediately to a standing start.

If two walk-in attempts are aborted, the third attempt will be a standing start.

For a standing start, horses will line up at the beginning of the start area before the race is permitted to start.

This will either be behind the marker poles or, where there is a natural barrier, it may be in front of the marker poles at a point instructed by the starter or assistant starter.

