

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Tuesday 5 May 2026 the Whip Review Committee convened to consider potential breaches of Rule (F)45 following referrals from the racecourse Stewards and their own independent review of races run from 30 April 2026 – 3 May 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Lingfield 30 April 2026:

Race 7 - The Sky Sports Racing Virgin 512 Handicap (Class 5)

Tyler Heard, the rider of KIT GABRIEL (IRE), placed third, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from after entering the home straight. Allowing for the fact that Heard has had over 100 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. Therefore, he will be suspended for 3 days from Tuesday 19 to Thursday 21 May inclusive.

Ascot 1 May 2026:

Race 2 - The Longines Sagaro Stakes (Group 3)(Class 1)

William Buick, the rider of CABALLO DE MAR (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from turning into the home straight. Allowing for the fact that Buick has had more than 100 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied, but taking into account that this was a Class 1 race, the penalty was doubled. Therefore, he will be suspended for 6 days as follows; Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 May inclusive and Monday 25 May.

Warwick 1 May 2026:

Race 2 - The Pertemps Network Intermediate Point-To-Point Hunters' Chase (Class 4)

Mr Bradley Gibbs, the rider of PRACTICE RUN (IRE), placed third, was found to have used his whip in the incorrect place turning in. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Tuesday 19, Sunday 24, Monday 25 and Wednesday 27 May.

Race 3 - The GB Pointing Open Hunters' Chase (Class 4)

Mr Nicholas Romain, the rider of HIGH GAME ROYAL (FR), placed third, was found to have used his whip twice above the permitted level of seven from the fourth last fence. He will be suspended for 7 days as follows; Tuesday 19, Sunday 24, Monday 25, Wednesday 27, Friday 29 May and Saturday 06 and Thursday 11 June.

Race 4 - The Jonathan Neesom Memorial Open Hunters' Chase (Class 4)

Mr Sean O'Connor, the rider of IMPERIAL ESPIRIT (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven and without time to respond from after the final

fence. He will be suspended for 8 days as follows; Tuesday 19, Sunday 24, Monday 25, Wednesday 27, Friday 29 May and Saturday 06, Thursday 11 and Tuesday 23 June.

Race 5 - The Natural Green Creative Spaces Mares' Open Hunters' Chase (Class 4)

Mr Hugh Lillingston, the rider of ALL LOVED UP (IRE), placed fourth, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from after the fifth last fence. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Tuesday 19, Sunday 24, Monday 25 and Wednesday 27 May.

Goodwood 2 May 2026:

Race 4 - Munro UK Equity Income Fund Handicap (Class 4)

Harry Davies, the rider of the winner ARC ZOOSVE, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from two furlongs out. Allowing for the fact that Davies has had over 200 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. Therefore, he will be suspended for 2 days Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 May.

Thirsk 2 May 2026:

Race 4 - The Sky Bet Sunday At Thirsk 31 May Book Now Handicap (Class 5)

Millie Wonnacott, the rider of the winner SCOTTISH DANCER (IRE), was found to have used her whip once above the permitted level of six from inside the final two furlongs. Allowing for the fact that Wonnacott has had over 100 rides in Great Britain since her previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. Therefore, she will be suspended for 3 days from Tuesday 19 to Thursday 21 inclusive.

Newmarket 2 May 2026:

Race 1 - The Oddschecker Ellen Chaloner Stakes (Listed Race) (Formerly The Kilvington Stakes) (Class 1)

James Doyle, the rider of the winner FLORA OF BERMUDA (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from inside the final two furlongs. Taking into account that this was a Class 1 race, the penalty was doubled. Therefore, he will be suspended for 8 days as follows; Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 May inclusive and Monday 25 to Wednesday 27 May inclusive.

Doncaster 2 May 2026:

Race 5 - The Free Tips On attheraces.com Handicap (Class 5)

Daniel Tudhope, the rider of MAFTING, placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from inside the final two furlongs. Allowing for the fact that Tudhope has had over 100 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. Therefore, he will be suspended for 3 days from Tuesday 19 to Thursday 21 May inclusive.

Hexham 2 May 2026:

Race 6 - The Elizabeth Elliott Birthday Celebration Handicap Chase (Class 5).

Peter Kavanagh, the rider of the winner SCAIRP DUHB, was found to have used his whip twice above the permitted level of seven from the third last fence. He will be suspended for 7 days as follows; Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20, Friday 22, Saturday 23, Sunday 24, Monday 25 and Wednesday 27 May.

Salisbury 3 May 2026:

Race 7 - The Fitzdares Handicap (Class 6)

Harry Vigors, the rider of TAKE THE BOAT (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of 7 from approximately two and a half furlongs out. He will be suspended for 4 days from Tuesday 19 to Friday 22 May inclusive.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Sarah Ellison

Shaun Parker