

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Friday 13 March 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 06 March 2026 – 11 March 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Ayr 06 March 2026:

Race 4 - The Weatherbys Racing Bank Handicap Hurdle (Go North Sea Pigeon Series Qualifier) (Class 5)

Mr Oran McGill, the rider of NAKASSAMA (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip twice above the permitted level of seven from approaching the second last flight. He will be suspended for 7 days as follows; Monday 30 March 2026, Wednesday 01, Tuesday 07, Thursday 09 April, Monday 13, Tuesday 14, Friday 17 April 2026.

Stratford-On-Avon 09 March 2026:

Race 7 - The DragonBet Safer Gambling Tools No Roar Tonight Novices' Hunters' Chase (Class 5)

Mr Nicholas Romain, the rider of HIGH GAME ROYAL (FR), placed fourth, was found to have used his whip without giving his mount time to respond after jumping the last fence in the back straight. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Monday 30 March 2026 and Wednesday 01, Tuesday 07 and Monday 13 April 2026.

Sedgefield 10 March 2026:

Race 1 - The Fairlight Studios Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle (Go North Sea Pigeon Series Qualifier) (Class 5).

Conner McCann, the rider of JET APPROACH (IRE), unplaced, was found to have used his whip when his mount was out of contention from after jumping the last hurdle. He will be suspended for 5 days from Friday 27 to Tuesday 31 March 2026, inclusive.

Wolverhampton 10 March 2026:

Race 1 - The Read Meg Nicholls' Blog At betmgm.co.uk Handicap (Class 5)

Taylor Fisher, the rider of the winner, ZIPWIRE (IRE), was found to have used his whip in the incorrect place on the run to the line. Allowing for the fact that Fisher has had over 100 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. He will be suspended for 3 days from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 March 2026, inclusive.

Southwell 10 March 2026:

Race 3 - The Midnite, Building The Future Of Betting Handicap (Class 5)

Donagh Murphy, the rider of RUBELLITE (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approaching two furlongs out. He will be suspended for 4 days from Friday 27 to Monday 30 March 2026, inclusive.

Race 5 - The Midnite: Built For 2026 Not 2006 Handicap (GBBPlus Race) (Class 4)

Oisin Murphy, the rider of the winner, CALIBAN (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately two furlongs out. As Murphy was referred to the Judicial Panel on 03 November 2025 for 'totting up' previous whip offences, the deferred suspension of 5 days was imposed by the Panel for a further whip breach within the next 6 months was triggered. He will therefore be suspended for 8 days as from Tuesday 24 to Tuesday 31 March 2026, inclusive.

Cheltenham 11 March 2026:

Race 2 - The Brown Advisory Novices' Chase (Grade 1) (Registered As The Broadway Novices' Chase) (GBB Race) (Class 1)

Caoilin Quinn, the rider of SALVER (FR), placed third, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from jumping the third last fence. Allowing for the fact that Quinn has had more than 150 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 in respect of being above permitted level was doubled. He will be suspended for 4 days from Friday 27 to Monday 30 March 2026, inclusive.

Race 6 - The Debenhams Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Challenge Cup Handicap Chase (Premier Handicap) (GBB Race) (Class 1)

Conor Stone-Walsh, the rider of BREAK MY SOUL (IRE), placed third, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from after jumping the final fence. Taking into account that this was a Class 1 race, the penalty in respect of being above permitted level was doubled. He will be suspended for 8 days from Friday 27 March 2026 to Thursday 02 April 2026, inclusive and Saturday 04 April.

Charlie Deutsch, the rider of the winner, MARTATOR (FR), was found to have used his whip twice above the permitted level of seven from after jumping the final fence. Taking into account that this was a Class 1 race, the penalty in respect of being above permitted level was doubled. He will be suspended for 14 days from Friday 27 March 2026 to Thursday 02 April 2026, inclusive, and Saturday 04 to Friday 10 April inclusive. He will also be fined £1,550.

Newcastle 11 March 2026:

Race 2 - The Make The Move To Midnite Handicap (Class 6)

Aiden Brookes, the rider of LILLISTAR, placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from two furlongs. Allowing for the fact that Brookes has had over 200 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. He will be suspended for 2 days from Friday 27 and Saturday 28 March 2026.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Steven Drowne

Phillip Spottiswood