

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Friday 14 August 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 10 August 2026 – 12 August 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Ayr 10 August 2026:

Race 6 - The Ladbrokes "Free Rewards With Instant Spins" Handicap (Div I) (Class 6)

Jack Nicholls, the rider of RECOBELLA (FR), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately two furlongs out. He will be suspended for 4 days from Friday 28 to Monday 31 August 2026, inclusive.

Carlisle 11 August 2026:

Race 4 - The Christmas Community Raceday 13th Dec Handicap (Class 5)

James Sullivan, the rider of VALENTINE CATCHER, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six inside the final two furlongs. Allowing for the fact that Sullivan 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, Friday 28 and Saturday 29 August 2026.

Lingfield Park 11 August 2026:

Race 3 - The British Stallion Studs EBF Fillies' Handicap (GBBPlus Race) (Class 4)

Robbie Downey, the rider of DISTANT SHORE, unplaced, was found to have used his whip without giving his mount time to respond from turning into the home straight. He will be suspended for 4 days from Friday 28 to Monday 31 August 2026, inclusive.

Hamilton Park 11 August 2026:

Race 7 - The Book Your Christmas Party At Hamilton Park Handicap (Class 6)

Sean Dylan Bowen, the rider of the winner, SATYRESS, was found to have used his whip above the permitted level of six from approaching the final three furlongs. He will be suspended for 4 days from Friday 28 to Monday 31 August 2026, inclusive.

Kempton Park 12 August 2026:

Race 4 - The Unibet Support Safer Gambling Handicap (Div II) (Class 4)

Silvestre De Sousa, the rider of BERRY CLEVER, placed fourth, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately two furlongs out. Allowing for the fact that De Sousa 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 28 to Sunday 30 August 2026, inclusive.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Michael Eyre

Adam Barker