

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Tuesday 17 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 12 March 2026 – 15 March 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Cheltenham 12 March 2026:

Race 4 - The Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle (Grade 1) (GBB Race) (Class 1)

J. J. Slevin, the rider of the winner, HOME BY THE LEE (IRE), was found to have used his whip twice above the permitted level of seven from turning into the home straight. 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 Tuesday 31 March 2026 to Thursday 02 April 2026, inclusive and Saturday 04 to Tuesday 14 April 2026, inclusive. He will also be fined £3,400.

Race 7 - The Rosconn Group Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup Amateur Jockeys' Handicap Chase (GBB Race) (Class 2)

Mr Shane Cotter, the rider of the winner, ASK BREWSTER (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from approaching the final fence. Taking into account that this was a Class 2 race restricted to amateur riders, the penalty in respect of being above permitted level was doubled. He will be suspended for 8 days as follows: Wednesday 01, Tuesday 07, Thursday 09, Monday 13, Tuesday 14, Friday 17, Sunday 19 and Monday 20 April 2026, inclusive.

Mr Patrick Mullins, the rider of ROAD TO HOME (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from jumping the final fence. Taking into account that this was a Class 2 race restricted to amateur riders, the penalty in respect of being above permitted level was doubled. He will be suspended for 8 days as follows: Tuesday 07, Thursday 09, Monday 13, Tuesday 14, Friday 17, Sunday 19, Monday 20 and Tuesday 22 April 2026, inclusive.

Newcastle 12 March 2026:

Race 9 - The Always Gamble Responsibly At BetMGM Handicap (Class 6)

Rowan Scott, the rider of CONCERT BOY (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately one and a half furlongs out. He will be suspended for 4 days from Tuesday 31 March 2026 to Friday 03 April 2026, inclusive.

Cheltenham 13 March 2026:

Race 4 - The Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1) (Registered As The Spa Novices' Hurdle) (GBB Race)(Class 1)

Sean Flanagan, the rider of FRUIT DE MER (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from after jumping the final flight. 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 Tuesday 31 March 2026 to Thursday 02 April 2026, inclusive and Saturday 04 to Wednesday 08 April 2026, inclusive.

Gavin Sheehan, the rider of the winner, JOHNNY'S JURY (IRE), was found to have used his whip twice above the permitted level of seven from jumping the second last hurdle. 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 Tuesday 31 March 2026 to Thursday 02 April 2026, inclusive and Saturday 04 to Tuesday 14 April 2026, inclusive. He will also be fined £1,600.

Kempton Park 13 March 2026:

Race 4 - The Virgin Bet Supports Safe Gambling Handicap Chase (GBB Race) (Class 2)

Paul O'Brien, the rider of the winner, TEDDY BLUE (GER), was found to have used his whip twice above the permitted level of seven from jumping the last fence in the back straight. He will be suspended for 7 days as follows; Tuesday 31 March 2026, Wednesday 01, Thursday 02, Saturday 04 April, Sunday 05, Monday 06 and Tuesday 07 April 2026. He will also be fined £700.

Newcastle 14 March 2026:

Race 7 - The Guinness At The Canny Lad Open National Hunt Flat Race (Category 2 Elimination) (GBB Race) (Class 5)

Ian Power, the rider of the winner, MIDDAY RENDEZVOUS (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from inside the wings of what would be the last hurdle. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Tuesday 31 March 2026, Wednesday 01, Thursday 02 and Saturday 04 April 2026.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Steven Drowne

Sarah Ellison