

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Friday 17 April 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 08 April 2026 – 15 April 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Fontwell 08 April 2026:

Race 6 - The KSR Lighting, The Ultimate Lighting Solutions Handicap Hurdle (Class 5).

James Bowen, the ride of FRANK STAMPER, placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from jumping the second last hurdle. Allowing for the fact that Bowen has had over 150 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. He will be suspended for 2 days, Saturday 02 and Monday 04 May 2026.

Hexham 13 April 2026:

Race 4 - The Mick Walsh Open Ditch Handicap Chase (Class 5)

Derek Fox, the rider of RIGHTBACKATYOU (IRE), placed fourth, was found to have used his whip in the incorrect place on two occasions from jumping the final fence. He will be suspended for 7 days as follows; Saturday 02 and Monday 04 to Saturday 09 May 2026, inclusive.

Newcastle 13 April 2026:

Race 2 - The Sky Sports Racing Sky 415 Handicap (Class 6)

Oisín McSweeney, the rider of TAAKLAM, placed third, 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 01 to Monday 04 May 2026, inclusive.

Newton Abbot 14 April 2026:

Race 2 - The Newton Abbot Novices' Limited Handicap Hurdle (Class 5)

Lucy Gardner, the rider of BREDON HILL DART, later pulled up, was found to have used her whip without giving her mount time to respond turning into the back straight. She will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Saturday 02 and Monday 04 to Thursday 06 May 2026, inclusive.

Panel:

Shaun Parker

Steven Drowne

Henry Pelly