

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Tuesday 19 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 14 May 2026 – 17 May 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Salisbury 14 May 2026:

Race 2 - The Al Basti Equiworld, Dubai "City Bowl" Handicap (GBBPlus Race) (Class 3)

Rossa Ryan, the rider of ANNIVERSARY, placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately two furlongs out. Allowing for the fact that Ryan 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, Tuesday 02 and Wednesday 03 June 2026.

York 14 May 2026:

Race 1 - The Sky Bet ebfstallions.com Novice Stakes (GBB Race) (Class 2)

Diego Lima, the rider of RANTING DUKE, placed second, was found to have used his whip more than five times above the permitted level of six approaching the final two furlongs and to have used his whip in the incorrect place on the run to the line. Taking into account that none of the uses were clearly and unequivocally for safety purposes, RANTING DUKE was disqualified under Rule (L)47.11. Mr Lima will be suspended for 24 days from Tuesday 02 to Thursday 25 June 2026, inclusive.

Newmarket 16 May 2026:

Race 6 - The BetMGM Handicap (GBBPlus Race) (Class 4)

Ashley Lewis, the rider of SHARP ROMANCE, 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 as follows; Tuesday 02, Wednesday 03, Thursday 04 and Sunday 07 June 2026.

Newbury 16 May 2026:

Race 8 - The World Pool Bet With The tote Handicap (Class 3)

Faleh Bughenaim, the rider of LAW COURT (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 as follows; Tuesday 02, Wednesday 03, Thursday 04 and Sunday 07 June 2026.

Thirsk 16 May 2026:

Race 5 - The Sky Bet Extra Places Handicap (Class 5)

Mark Winn, the rider of RAJAPOUR (IRE), placed third, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately one and a half furlongs out. Allowing for the fact that Winn has had over 100 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied but as Winn was referred to the Judicial Panel for 'totting up' previous whip offences, the deferred suspension of 9 days was imposed by the Panel for a further whip breach within the next 6 months was triggered. He will be suspended for 12 days from Tuesday 02 to Saturday 13 June 2026, inclusive.

Doncaster 16 May 2026:

Race 1 - The Proudly Supporting Mental Health Awareness Week Apprentice Handicap (Class 6)

Harry Vigors, the rider of IN THE POST, 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 as follows; Tuesday 02, Wednesday 03, Thursday 04 and Sunday 07 June 2026. One of these days will be spent receiving specialised coaching.

Ripon 17 May 2026:

Race 1 - The Anglo Stainless Supporting Yorkshire Wooden Spoon Apprentice Handicap (Class 5)

Millie Wonnacott, the rider of SCOTTISH DANCER (IRE), placed second, was found to have used her whip twice above the permitted level of six from two furlongs out. She will be suspended for 7 days from Tuesday 02 to Monday 08 June 2026, inclusive.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Gregory Pearson

Georgina Cartwright

Following riders' admissions of a breach of Rule (F)45, the following penalties were applied by the racecourse Stewards.

Doncaster 16 May 2026:

Race 3 - Racing Welfare Supporting Racing's Workforce Novice Stakes (GBB Race) (Class 4)

Kevin Stott, the rider of the winner, THE UNTAMED (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately two furlongs out. Allowing for the fact that Stott 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, Wednesday 20 and Sunday 31 May 2026.

Hamilton 17 May 2026:

Race 6 - Sky Bet For The Fans Handicap (Class 4)

Jason Hart, the rider of JONNY CONCRETE (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately two furlongs out. Allowing for the fact that Hart 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, Wednesday 20 May 2026 and Monday 01 June 2026.