

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Friday 20 February 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 16 February 2026 – 18 February 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Wolverhampton 16 February 2026:

Race 5 - The Midnite Are Upping The Betting Game Handicap (Rider Restricted Race) (Class 6)

Laura Coughlan, the rider of DARK SUN, placed second, was found to have used her whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately one and a half furlongs out. Allowing for the fact that Coughlan has had over 200 rides in Great Britain since her previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. She will be suspended for 2 days, Friday 06 and Saturday 07 March 2026.

Market Rasen 17 February 2026:

Race 5 - The Bet At racingtv.com Handicap Hurdle (Class 4)

Jonathan Burke, the rider of TZARMIX (FR), placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from down the back straight on the final circuit. Allowing for the fact that Burke 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, Friday 06 and Saturday 07 March 2026.

Wolverhampton 17 February 2026:

Race 2 - The Midnite A Next Generation Betting App Handicap (Rider Restricted Race) (Div II) (Class 6)

Ashley Lewis, the rider of BELLE OF KT, placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately one and half furlongs out. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Friday 06, Saturday 07, Monday 09 and Tuesday 10 March 2026.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Shaun Parker

Sarah Ellison

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

Carlisle 16 February 2026:

Race 7 - Watch Racing TV Now Handicap Chase (Go North Monet's Garden Series Qualifier) (GBB Race) (Class 4)

Brian Hughes, the rider of the winner, TRAC (FR), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from after jumping the second last fence. Allowing for the fact that Hughes 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, Sunday 22 February 2026 and Monday 02 March 2026.