

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Tuesday 21 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 16 April 2026 – 19 April 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Ripon 16 April 2026:

Race 4 - The Armstrong Memorial Handicap (Class 4)

Rhys Elliott, the rider of the winner, KODIAC THRILLER (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six inside the final two furlongs. Allowing for the fact that Elliott 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 Tuesday 05 to Thursday 07 May 2026, inclusive.

Ayr 18 April 2026:

Race 4 - The Jordan Electrics Ltd Seafield Trophy Mares' Handicap Hurdle (GBB Race) (Class 2)

Mr Ross Sugrue, the rider of WORLD OF FORTUNES (IRE), placed second, was found to have used his whip four times above the permitted level of seven from approaching the second last hurdle, as well as using it without giving his mount time to respond. Taking into account that none of the uses were clearly and unequivocally for safety purposes, WORLD OF FORTUNES (IRE) was disqualified under Rule (L)47.11. Sugrue will be suspended for 18 days as follows: Wednesday 06, Saturday 09, Wednesday 13, Friday 15, Tuesday 19, Sunday 24, Monday 25, Wednesday 27, Friday 29 May 2026, and Saturday 06 and Thursday 11 June 2026, with the remaining 7 to be provided in due course.

Charlie Price, the rider of LOVE OF NEYMORE, which finished third and was subsequently placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from jumping the third last hurdle. Allowing for the fact that Price has had over 75 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied. He will be suspended for 3 days, Tuesday 05 to Thursday 07 May 2026, inclusive.

Bangor-On-Dee 18 April 2026:

Race 5 - The Keegans Independent Drinks Suppliers Handicap Hurdle (Div II) (Class 4)

Joe Anderson, the rider of GOOD BOY GRIFF, 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 Anderson 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, Tuesday 05 and Wednesday 06 May 2026.

Thirsk 18 April 2026:

Race 5 - The Join Racing TV Today Handicap (Div II) (Class 4)

Laura Pearson, the rider of IT'SNEVERJUSTONE, placed fourth, was found to have used her whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately one and a half furlongs out. She will be suspended for 4 days from Tuesday 05 to Friday 08 May 2026, inclusive.

Race 8 - The Hunt Cup Next Meeting Saturday 2nd May Handicap (Class 6)

Rhys Elliott, the rider of STORMY PEARL, placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six approximately two furlongs out. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows: Friday 08, Saturday 09, Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 May 2026.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Gregory Pearson

Georgina Cartwright