

Whip Review Committee Decisions 2026:

On Friday 21 August 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 17 August 2026 – 19 August 2026, inclusive. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

Carlisle 19 August 2026:

Race 3 - The North Lakes Energy - Harry Doyle Memorial Maiden Handicap (Div I) (Class 6)

Andrew Mullen, the rider of the winner, APRIL DIAMOND (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately three furlongs out. Allowing for the fact Mullen 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, Friday 04 and Sunday 06 September 2026.

Race 5 - The David Allen IT Solutions Handicap (Class 4)

Sean Kirrane, the rider of the winner, COUNT PALATINE (IRE), was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately three furlongs out. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Friday 04, Sunday 06, Monday 07 and Tuesday 08 September 2026.

York 19 August 2026:

Race 4 - The Juddmonte International Stakes (Group 1) (Class 1)

Kieren Shoemark, the rider of ALMAQAM, placed second, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from approximately two furlongs. Allowing for the fact that Shoemark has had more than 100 rides in Great Britain since his previous whip breach, mitigation on penalty was applied, but 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 6 days from Friday 04 to Wednesday 09 September 2026, inclusive.

Worcester 19 August 2026:

Race 4 - The CopyBet For Premier League Profit Boosts Novices' Hurdle (ARC Summer Novices' Brush Hdl Qual') (GBB) (Class 4)

Mr Tory Walsh, the rider of the winner, ROAD TO WEMBLEY, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of seven from jumping the second last hurdle. He will be suspended for 4 days as follows; Monday 28 September 2026, Wednesday 07, Friday 16 and Wednesday 21 October 2026.

Kempton Park 19 August 2026:

Race 6 - The Unibet 40,000+ Live Streamed Events Handicap (London Mile Series Qualifier) (Div II) (Class 4)

Robbie Downey, the rider of the winner, STARLIGHT TIME, was found to have used his whip without giving his mount time to respond inside the final furlong. Taking into account that this was to be Downey's fifth suspension within the previous 6 months for a breach of the whip rules, Downey was referred to the Judicial Panel.

Panel:

Sam Angell (Chair)

Shaun Parker

Philip Spottiswood

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

Wolverhampton 18 August 2026:

Race 6 - Self Storage Association Handicap (Class 5)

Oisin Murphy, the rider of the winner, HEROICS, was found to have used his whip once above the permitted level of six from turning into the home straight. Allowing for the fact that Murphy 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 01 and Wednesday 02 September 2026.