

NATIONAL RULES BOOK
Amendments - HRA approved 12 October 2009

DICTIONARY

Add new definition of “Start” (HRA approved, 12 October 2009)

“**Start**” – The Start means the point at which the starter declares by whatever means determined by the Controlling Body the commencement of the race.

2. STEWARDS

Powers

- **Amend Rule 15(2) (HRA approved, 12 October 2009)**

15. (2) A horse which is placed first, second, third or fourth including after the determination of any protest shall not be declared a non-starter.

7. STARTING

False Start

- **Amend Rule 141 (HRA approved, 12 October 2009)**

141. (3) In standing start races the starter may declare a false start if the starter considers a horse’s prospects in the race are adversely affected by any incident that occurs immediately prior to or at the time of start.

9. DRIVERS

Note: The following amended Rules 156 and 156A were approved on 12 October 2009, and come into effect 1 January 2010.

Whips

- **Amend Rule 156(1) (all HRA approved, 12 October 2009)**
- **New Rule 156(2)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 156(3) and (4) to 156(4) and (5)**
- **Amend new Rule 156(5)**
- **New Rule 156(4)(c) and (d)**
- **Amend Rule 156A**

156. (1) A driver shall only use a non modified whip of the type approved by the Controlling Body.

(2) A driver shall at all times hold a rein in each hand unless adjusting approved gear.

(3) (a) a whip shall not be used so as to obstruct, strike or endanger another driver or horse;

(b) A driver shall not use a whip excessively;

(c) A driver shall not allow a whip to project outside the sulky;

(d) a whip shall not be used in a prodding or jabbing motion;

(e) *(Rule 156(2)(e) repealed – AHRC approved 30th March 2007)*

(f) a horse shall not be whipped after it has passed the winning post at the finish of a race, its run is finished, or if it cannot maintain or improve its position in the race.

(4) For the purposes of sub-rule (3)(b) a driver shall be deemed to have used a whip excessively in the following circumstances which are not exclusive:-

(a) if the tip of the whip is drawn back further than the driver's shoulder;

(b) if the whip action involves more than a wrist and elbow action;

(c) if the reins are lengthened so as to result in loose reining;

(d) if the whip is used other than in a flicking motion.

(5) A person who fails to comply with any provision of sub rule (1), (2) or (3) is guilty of an offence.

156A. The approved whip is a flexible whip of black or dark tan colour with a core of fibreglass with a handle base and shaft and either a leather keeper to a maximum of 60 millimetres in length and 20 millimetres in width or a non rigid tip amounting to a maximum overall length of 1600 millimetres.

Relating to capacity to drive

- **New sub-heading “relating to capacity to drive” (HRA approved, 12 October 2009)**
- **New Rule 174A (1) and (2)**

174A. (1) The holder of a driver's licence shall advise the Stewards of any injury, sickness, abnormality or condition that may affect or has affected their capacity to carry out their driving duties.

(2) A driver who fails to comply with sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

12. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

Holding of drugs

- **Amend Rule 194 (HRA approved, 12 October 2009)**

194. A person who holds or controls drugs unlawfully or which are unlabelled or without a current supporting prescription for a horse presently in the trainer's care is, if those drugs are capable of being administered to a horse, guilty of an offence.

14. GENERAL OFFENCES

Corrupt and related matters

- **Amend Rule 246 (HRA approved, 12 October 2009)**

246. A person who has reasonable grounds for believing that someone is behaving or may behave or has behaved in a way causing, likely to cause or which has caused a breach of these rules shall promptly bring the matter to the notice of the Controlling Body or the stewards.

Alcohol and related matters

- **Amend Rule 252A**
- **Add new sub-rule 252A(b)**

252A. For the purposes of Rules 250, 250A, 251 and 252

- (a) the Stewards may administer any test or use any equipment as they consider appropriate;
- (b) the following substances and/or their metabolites, artifacts and isomers are declared as banned substances when their presence is detected by a breath analysing instrument at a concentration in excess of the applicable threshold level:

alcohol at a concentration in excess of 0.02%.

21. GENERAL MATTERS

Notification

- **Amend Rule 307(3) (HRA approved, 12 October 2009)**

307. (1) Where the Controlling Body imposes a requirement or makes or gives an order, direction, decision, determination or the like under these rules which is of general application or of general interest to participants in the harness racing industry, it may give notice thereof -

- (a) by publishing it in a recognised harness racing publication;
- (b) by publishing it in the racing calendar;
- (c) by publishing it in a newspaper; or
- (d) by publishing it in some other format of general distribution.

(2) A person is deemed to have notice of anything published pursuant to sub rule (1).

(3) After service has been effected the Controlling Body or stewards, as the case may be, may proceed to deal with the matter including in the absence of the person served.

Summary of Amendments – HRA approved 12 October 2009

RULES AMENDED

15(2), 141, 156(1), 156(5), 156A, 194, 246, 307(3)

NEW RULES / SUB-RULES

156(2), 156(4)(c), (d), 174A(1), (2)

RULES REPEALED

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RULES RENUMBERED

156(3), (4)