

Harness Racing | Notice to Participants

GROUP RACING AND DEFERRMENT PENALTY POLICY

Effective from 1 June 2016 the following policy and procedure shall apply to application of penalties for driving infringements (whip offences, interference, crossing, jostling, unacceptable drives etc) issued by Stewards.

1. Stewards shall apply a higher level of base tariff for any suspensions or fines imposed in relation to infringements of the rules in relation to driving offences arising from all Group races. Accordingly such penalties shall be higher and not less than an additional 10-days to the starting tariff. (Eg. If the normal starting point for the penalty would be 21 days, the Stewards will apply a starting point of at least 31 days subject to any mitigations that then apply which will be calculated on the normal tariff that applies). In assessing any fines, where the offending Driver has subsequently proceeded to win or be placed, the Stewards will be entitled to take into account the Driver percentages that are to apply in determining the quantum of fine.
2. In instances where the offence is deemed in the opinion of the Stewards to be egregious, excessive, flagrant, resulted in a fall (or Driver dislodged) or where the offending Driver has subsequently proceeded to win or be placed in such event, the penalty shall also attract an additional premium above that of the higher base tariff. This shall also apply where as a result of the matter concerning the offence the Driver has either directly or indirectly benefited from the event with respect to the final finishing position of the horse.
3. Any suspensions incurred in Group races shall not be deferred for a period greater than 5-days. Such limited concession is provided in the interests of connections to avoid difficulties in finding replacement drivers at short notice for race meeting in the immediate days ahead where other drivers are already engaged. Accordingly it would be expected that Driver's will fulfil their engagements (i.e within 5 days) unless there are some rare and exceptional reasons why this is not appropriate.
4. A Driver who does not have a good record at the time when any penalty is being issued arising from any race, will not be granted a deferment of the commencement of such penalty where such deferment would include a Group or other feature event. Drivers with good records may be granted such deferment at the discretion of the Stewards, however deferments will not be granted in any circumstance where in the opinion of the Stewards the offence was egregious, excessive, flagrant (or Driver dislodged) or where as a result a fall occurred. (For Example; If a Driver is not deemed to have a good record as per the Harness Stewards Penalty Guidelines Document and incurs a suspension on Tuesday in some regular race, then such penalty will not be deferred to include the Friday, if the same Driver is due to drive in a Group or feature event on that day.) A Good record shall be one where the Driver has not been suspended within the last 6-months for any driving related offence provided that he has driven in no less than 100 race starts in that period.

