

Tim

We have an urgent repose to the AGT rule 4 ruling posted on the website.

Members believe this creates a very damaging scenario for all concerned on the racecourse, but we have a simple solution to propose.

There is no issue with taking the industry SP rule 4 and having it broadcast if the withdrawal occurs once an off-course show has been broadcast (approximately) 10 minutes before the off.

The issue is surrounding a withdrawal that occurs earlier. Whilst this may be Tatts current rule it is clearly outdated, and I doubt has been reviewed for many years. I have certainly never seen it applied at the track.

This scenario occurs quite regularly especially for non-runners on the first race when on-course books can often be betting for an hour or more before the first race.

This proposal will adversely affect on-course bookmakers, punters (especially), on course service providers (RDT etc) and the racecourses themselves.

Take an example for Royal Ascot this week -the Royal Hunt Cup

So, a horse is withdrawn 20 minutes before the off and before the off-course show has been sent to LBOs.

Are we really going to settle every bet at SP on course?

Every punter will have a ticket with a price on and will **expect** to be paid at that price minus a rule 4.

Who is going to explain to the customer who has taken 8/1 about the winner that when an 11/1 shot (5p rule 4) has been withdrawn he gets paid at the SP of 5/1?

Also, the customer who takes 8/1 and the SP is 12/1 of course he expects to be paid at 12/1. So, the on-course bookmaker will finish up paying SP or original price to keep customers happy.

Can RDT and Elite even settle bets correctly under these circumstances? Have you consulted with them?

It's a truly rotten out-dated rule that will no doubt cause significant problems on big race days when applied in these circumstances.

There is the potential for serious disorder when trying to implement this rule. We have concerns for our members personal safety and business integrity.

The on-course bookmaker is actually being asked to settle at a price he has no control over!!!

There is though a simple solution, which seems to have been overlooked. We urge you to consider this immediately.

If the Industry prices are deemed to be the acceptable point of reference (we can live with that, but we could use the on-course market which would be much more sensible).

ALL off-course firms forming the sample for Industry prices bet on the races from 6pm the day before the race.

So, if there is a withdrawal before the formal betting show is sent to the LBOs (remember not all firms take the official show anyway nowadays) then why not take the mode (most common) rule 4 from the firms contributing to the sample).

For example, 5 books took 5p and 3 books took 10p (because they were offering different prices) so, the rule 4 is announced as 5p.

This is simple, auditable and easy to administer. All it requires is the PA to provide from the firms (who they are constantly in touch with) what the individual firms rule 4 deductions were.

Surely this has to be a better way for everyone concerned.

We are alerting Royal Ascot, RCA and the media to the potential consequences of this rule imposition.

Kindest regards,

Christopher Hudson

The British Racecourse Bookmakers' Association