

**RULES FOR THE GENERAL ALLOCATION, USE AND CONTROL OF BOOKMAKERS' PITCHES AT ALL POINT TO POINT MEETINGS AGREED BETWEEN THE HUNT AND THE BRITISH RACECOURSE BOOKMAKERS' ASSOCIATION [BRBA]: November 2023**

**RULES BINDING:**

- (1) These rules shall be binding on any bookmaker or representative who operates at Point to Point meetings which come under the jurisdiction of the BRBA.

**PERMISSION TO BET**

- (2) No person shall receive or negotiate bets at any Point to Point meeting in the BRBA area unless he/she has been permitted to do so by the BRBA.
- (3) Any applicant who satisfies the initial criteria approved by the BRBA shall have his/her name placed on the waiting list of an existing Point to Point meeting in date order.
- (4) The pitch holder must
- (a) be a member of the BRBA or pay an annual fee of £65 to be a Point to Point Only member,
  - (b) be the holder of a current Gambling Commission Operator's Licence,
  - (c) have a current Horseracing Betting Levy Board certificate of discharge or exemption,
  - (d) have Public Liability Insurance to £5million and those who are not members of the BRBA must showproof of this to the BRBA office.
- (5) Every bookmaker or representative should have with them, on the day, photographic ID for Gambling Commission compliance. This could be the following – DVLA licence, AGT ID card, BRBA representative card with photograph.
- (a) All pitches must be held by an individual, however partnerships will be considered on a case by case basis by the PTP committee. In such cases both partners must be members of the BRBA and the partnership must be registered with the BRBA.*

**ON-COURSE CONDUCT**

- (6) The Point to Point Committee will appoint a nominated representative to act as the Betting Ring Manager (BRM).
- (7) The Point to Point Committee is opposed to pitch renting and to that end the pitch holder or his/her representative must, AT ALL TIMES, either negotiate or record bets. The BRM will ask for the joint to be taken down if this is not the case. (See Rule 15)
- (8) A bookmaker shall at all times conduct himself/ herself on the racecourse in a seemly and proper manner and shall not be guilty of any violent, quarrelsome or disorderly behaviour.
- (9) After an announcement has been made that a horse has been withdrawn from a race before coming under Starter's Orders, a bookmaker, before recording any further bets, shall delete this from their list of runners.
- (10) Any bookmaker who has an unsettled claim against him in respect of a bet taken on any racing day shall not remove his board or leave his pitch until at least five minutes after the weighed-in signal has been given for the last race on which he has taken a bet on that day unless he first displays a notice to that effect on his joint.
- (11) Bookmakers must be willing to lay any horse to lose at least £250 "to a punter".
- (12) Bookmakers will ONLY be allowed to accept each way bets if they bet to BRBA each way terms, i.e. ¼ 1-2 for 5 to 7 runner races and 1/5 1-2-3 for races of 8 or more runners. Bookmakers can also bet 1/5 1-2 on 4 runner races or less. A sign indicating their terms of trade MUST be clearly displayed in all circumstances. This is a Gambling Commission requirement.
- (13) Any Bookmaker betting on the FORECAST must state his rule for circumstances where a runner(s) is withdrawn after the market has been formed. This is a Gambling Commission requirement.
- (14) In the event of a betting dispute bookmakers should contact the BRM instantly. Should the dispute not be resolved on the day then written information will be given to the Point to Point Committee by the BRM, and the bookmaker if he so wishes.

- (15) The BRM's decision regarding on-course Conduct, pitch allocation or any other matters that occur on the day, is FINAL.
- (16) Any objections to any decisions made by the BRM on the day should be made in writing to the Point to Point Committee, within four weeks.
- (17) The Point to Point Committee or the appointed BRM will not be responsible for any betting activity that takes place on anything other than Point to Point races at the venue. These include Arab races, pony races, mascot races, charity races or any 'away' betting.
- (18) All joints must be securely fastened.
- (19) In the event of a non-runner the Point to Point Betting Officer, in conjunction with a nominated bookmaker will determine the rule for deductions and this will be announced promptly over the PA system.
- (20) All tickets must have the bookmaker's own name and a late pay address, e.g. BRBA.
- (21) Bookmakers are not allowed to display a price against 'No Finishers'.
- (22) The numbers on a Bookmaker's board must match the racecard and therefore the horses' number cloths.
- (23) No pitch networking will be allowed. All businesses must be individual and use only one computer and one printer.

### **ALLOCATION OF PITCHES**

- (24) No Bookmaker will be allowed more than one position at any Point to Point.
- (25) Where a new Point to Point is announced the Point to Point Committee will allocate pitches based on the attendances made by bookmakers, at all Point to Points in the area where the new Point to Point is to take place, over the preceding 3 years. The areas covered at present by the BRBA are the Northern, Yorkshire, North West and Lincolnshire.
- (26) Where the allocation is greater than the optimum allowed, all allocated pitch holder bookmakers may bet but waiting list bookmakers will only be allowed to bet up to the optimum number.
- (27) The position of the bookmakers' line will be determined by the Pitch Committee in conjunction with the Hunt, and bookmakers will be allowed to choose their position in accordance with their pick numbers.
- (28) *The pitch allocation time will be 1¼ hours before the start of the first advertised time of the first Point to Point race at ALL meetings SAVE those meetings classed as Northern Area point to points where the pitch allocation will be 1 hour.*

### **ATTENDANCES**

- (29) *Any bookmaker having a pitch at a given Point to Point meeting is required to attend, either personally or by their representative, at least once in three consecutive meetings. However, if they inform the BRBA office before 12 noon on the Friday before the scheduled meeting it will be registered for rule purposes as an actual attendance providing the appropriate pitch fee is paid. If they fail to pay for an attendance mark, they will be required to place their pitch for sale in the next Annual Pitch Transfer Scheme or if the position is not at a hunt within the transfer scheme, they will forfeit their position.*
- (30) A bookmaker successfully betting off the waiting list will be required to pay a fee of £10 in addition to the normal pitch fee. This will be collected by the BRM on the day.

### **ADVANCED BOOKING SYSTEM**

- (31) Pitch Holders who do not intend to go to a Point to Point meeting will need to inform the BRBA by e-mail using the address nbpaoptin@gmail.com before 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. Waiting List holders who wish to bet at a meeting must e-mail the BRBA at nbpaoptin@gmail.com before 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. The final attendance details will be posted on the BRBA website from 2pm on the Friday before the meeting.

*Any bookmaker that fails to inform before noon on the Friday before the meeting that he will not be attending will be required to pay the pitch fee and save for extenuating circumstances (provable to the Point to Point committee) will NOT receive an attendance mark.*

### **AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES**

(32) A bookmaker, whether a pitch holder or on a waiting list, at a Point to Point meeting held under the jurisdiction of the BRBA may be represented by an authorised representative holding a valid authorisation card issued by the BRBA.

- a) Only 2 representatives will be allowed per bookmaker.
- b) All persons named on the bookmaker's Gambling Commission Operator's Licence, with the exception of practicing bookmakers, can apply for a representative's card, providing they have worked continuously for 2 years with the bookmaker concerned and must be nominated and seconded by members of the Point to Point Committee.
- c) Representative's cards will cost £30 in the first instance with an annual renewal fee of £20.
- d) Cards will only be issued if applied by the 1<sup>st</sup> November for the forthcoming season's Point to Points, other than at the discretion of the Committee in exceptional circumstances.

### **REGISTERED SUCCESSORS**

(33) An immediate family member only, may succeed, at the discretion of the Point to Point Committee, providing the applicant complies with Rule 4.

### **PERMANENT MOVES**

(34) On the death or retirement of a pitch holder, the pitch holder's pitches will be traded at the next Annual Pitch Transfer and the balance due on completion, be passed to the pitch holder or Executors. However, waiting list positions, which are not pitches will be forfeited and other waiting list position holders, in order of seniority, will fill the vacant position (s). *Where the pitches are held in a none pitch transfer hunt and there is no registered successor the pitches and waiting list positions will be forfeited.*

### **TEMPORARY MOVES**

(35) Vacant pitches will be allocated to waiting list bookmakers in order of seniority.

(36) Bookmakers who refuse to take their pick in order will be allocated the last pick.

### **WAITING LISTS**

(37) Bookmakers must annually renew their positions on the waiting lists by 30 November before the forthcoming season. There will be a charge of £3 per list for all those who are not allocated pitch holders. Upon receipt of payment waiting list positions will be notified. Failure to renew waiting list positions will result in names being removed from the lists.

### **PENALTIES**

(38) Any bookmaker found to be in breach of these Rules, or the racecourse entry rules, shall be liable to suffer the following penalties at the discretion of the adjudicating body according to the nature and gravity of the breach.

- a) For the first offence: a warning or suspension from betting for such period as the adjudicating body shall determine.
- b) For a second offence: (if a warning was given on the first offence) forfeiture of one or more of his pitches and the removal of his name from the relevant waiting lists.
- c) For a third offence: forfeiture of all his pitches and the removal of his name from all waiting lists.

## **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

- (39) A bookmaker having a complaint with regard to the implementation of these Rules may appeal to the BRBA Point to Point committee. This appeal must be made in writing. The bookmaker may attend any hearing in person if he/she so desires.
- (40) No complaint shall be considered at any level unless made within 6 weeks of the fact which gave rise to such complaint becoming known to the bookmaker concerned.
- (41) A bookmaker having lost an appeal may have a second appeal. This appeal must be made within 14 days of receiving notification of the result of the first appeal. This will be heard before a minimum of 2 members of the Board of Directors of the BRBA who do not have Point to Point pitches, plus 1 member nominated by the Hunt involved. They will consider whether the rules have been applied fairly, and in accordance with the rules, in relation to the first appeal. Their decision will be binding to both the bookmaker and the Point to Point Committee.

## **UNFORESEEN CONTINGENCIES**

- (42) In the event of any unforeseen contingency arising with respect to pitches and waiting lists which is not covered by these rules, the Point to Point Committee shall make such temporary decision as is necessary and shall forthwith refer the matter to the Board of Directors of the BRBA.

## **CARD PAYMENTS**

- (43) To all Bookmakers who accept payments by card.
- a) The card payment device must be linked to the Bookmakers own bank account, using third party devices is strictly prohibited.
  - b) It is the Bookmakers responsibility to ensure payments made to them for staking a bet are not made using a credit card.