



Racing Officials Accreditation Program

*“You be the Steward”*

*Eddie Arroyo, ROAP Senior Steward &  
IRB Steward*

And

*Hugh Gallagher, ROAP Senior Judge &  
Executive Director DHRC*



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

# KNOW THE RULES *in your jurisdiction*

## Model Rules vs. Jurisdictional Rules

Model Rules → ARCI Document housing a comprehensive compilation of rules and regulations approved by RCI with industry input from all racing organizations



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# Typical Duties During the Race

- Watch live race or on TV monitors
- Once race is complete – post inquiry if incident was observed
- Barring any emergencies → review race replay
- Examine the incident
- Contact jockey or other officials for statement
- Determine outcome and post official
- Notify public via announcer and simulcast signal (example: NYRA – Stewards' Corner)

# Starting Gate Incidents



## Model Rule:

- If, when the starter dispatches the field, any door at the front of the starting gate stalls should not open properly due to a mechanical failure or if function or should any action by any starting personnel directly cause a horse to receive an unfair start, the stewards may declare such a horse a non-starter

# Rules relating to the Start

## ■ Jurisdiction A

- If the stewards find the horse was precluded from obtaining a fair start, the stewards shall rule the horse a nonstarter ...

## ■ Jurisdiction B

- No horse entered in any race is classed as a starter unless the starting gate opens in front of him simultaneously with the opening of the gates in front of the other horses at the start of the race. Refusal of a horse to break with his field shall not deem him a non-starter.



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# Recently adopted Model Rule definition for False Starts

**False Start** is when a horse (s) exits prematurely through the front of the gates prior to the starter officially dispatching the field regardless of cause. This does not include a horse which exits through the front of the gates and is subsequently reloaded. (Approved 7/27/2011)



## Model Rule:

- If the stewards suspect a false start has occurred, they shall post the inquiry sign and may disqualify the horse (s), declare it a non-starter, or take no action.

# Interference Incidents

## Model Rule

- (Interference) A jockey shall not ride carelessly or willfully so as to permit his/her mount to interfere with, impede or intimidate any other horse in the race.
- (Maintain a Straight Course) When the way is clear in a race, a horse may be ridden to any part of the course, but if any horse swerves, or is ridden to either side, so as to interfere with, impede or intimidate any other horse, it is a foul.
- **The offending horse may be disqualified, if in the opinion of the stewards, the foul altered the finish of the race, regardless of whether the foul was accidental, willful or the result of careless riding.**

# Basic Interference



## Foul is a Foul???

Did the interference affect the outcome of the race?

### ■ Jurisdiction A

- The stewards may place the offending horse behind the horse or horses that, in their judgment, the offending horse interfered with or they may place the offending horse last.

### ■ Jurisdiction B

- A horse crossing another so as actually to impede him is disqualified, unless the impeded horse was partly in fault, or crossing was wholly caused by the fault of some other horse or jockey.

# Disqualifications of Entries



## Model Rule:

- If a horse is disqualified for a foul, any horse or horses in the same race owned or trained by the same interests, whether coupled or uncoupled **may also be disqualified**.

# Disqualification of Entries

## ■ Jurisdiction A

- If two or more horses are coupled in the betting as an entry and one or more of them is guilty of interference or is disqualified for violation of any portion (of the race), the other horse coupled as an entry **shall also be disqualified if the stewards determine that it improved its finishing position** as a direct result of the violation.

## ■ Jurisdiction B

- When a horse is disqualified by the stewards, every horse in the race owned wholly or in part by the same owner or trained by the same trainer **may be disqualified.**

# Disqualifications involving a Dead Heat



## Model Rule:

- When a dead heat is run for second place and an objection is made to the winner of the race, and sustained, the horses which ran a dead heat shall be deemed to have run a dead heat for first place.

# Jurisdiction rules – Dead heat

- Jurisdiction A
  - No applicable rule
  
- Jurisdiction B
  - When two or more horses finish in a dead heat and a protest is made and allowed against a horse having finished in front of the dead heat, the horses which ran the dead heat shall be deemed to have run a dead heat for the higher position.

## Multiple Disqualifications

- Multiple Disqualifications. Should the stewards determine that there is more than one incident of interference in a race where disqualification is warranted, the stewards shall deal with the incidents in the order in which the incident occurs during the race from start to finish; except in the case where the same horses are involved in multiple incidents. Once a horse has been disqualified, it should remain placed behind the horse with which it interfered. The stewards shall make a conscious effort to place and maintain as placed, every and all horses placed behind others for interference.

# Multiple Disqualifications



## Crop Rules

- The riding crop shall only be used for safety, correction and encouragement.
- All riders should comply with the following when using a riding crop:
  - Showing the horse the riding crop and giving it time to respond before hitting it:
  - Having used the riding crop, giving the horse a chance to respond before using it again;
  - Using the riding crop in rhythm with the horse's stride.

# Crop Rules

## ■ Jurisdiction A

- Jockeys are prohibited from whipping a horse excessively, brutally, or upon the head, except when necessary to control the horse in an emergency.

## ■ Jurisdiction B

- The Stewards shall take whatever action they deem necessary if they determine there has been misuse of a whip during or after the running of a race.

# Crop Rule Violations



- excessively or brutally causing welts or breaks in the skin;
- when the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing;
- persistently even though the horse is showing no response under the riding crop;

# Crop Rule Violations



- Prohibited use of the riding crop includes but are not limited to striking a horse:
  - striking another rider or horse



# Racing Officials Accreditation Program

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821 Corporate Drive

Lexington, KY 40503

859-224-2702 (phone)

859-296-3033 (fax)

[contactus@horseracingofficials.com](mailto:contactus@horseracingofficials.com)

[www.horseracingofficials.com](http://www.horseracingofficials.com)