

## Regulatory Changes for 20-21 Season

The following provides a list of the regulatory changes that have taken place, and a synopsis of the thinking behind them. The main general aim has been to simplify them (eg all dates moving to 1 October where at all possible), whilst creating an holistic approach to the race planning. For those of you who have been in the sport a long time, it may take a little recalibration as certain terms, particularly race definitions, have altered slightly.

- **Horses' Headgear – Regulation 119 and Instruction 8.5d.** Clerks of Scale were meant to check horses' headgear but it is not clear this is always done or they know what they are looking at. This causes confusion and is discriminatory against those yards with only one set. As a result this requirement has been removed from Regulations and Instructions. It is now the responsibility of the Stewards to check whilst horses are in the paddock.
- **Jockey Drug Testing – NEW – Regulations 58-59 and Appendix.** Be aware that this is now in place.
- **Horse Sponsorship Scheme.** The horse sponsorship scheme has been widened to allow multi-horse sponsorship of either Owners or Keepers. In terms of who and where logos etc maybe placed it is precisely the same. However, there are some differences:
  - A multi-horse sponsorship will not be shown in the race card.
  - The PPA will provide a list of horses (as before) and Owners/Keepers who are covered by the schemes to the Stewards for each fixture – please comply.
  - If a horse is covered by two sponsorships, it may show both logos providing there is only one logo etc per location allowed.It is hoped that this will ensure that checking in paddock is easier, although Stewards' discretion will remain where it is accidental.
- **Two week Postponements – no weight for age changes.** This was actually confirmed last year but there was some confusion at several fixtures. Its at Regulation 13(ii), and is primarily meant to reduce need for changing race card (or adjusting weights). It is particularly relevant re flat races where weights change every half month.

There have also been considerable number of alterations to try to make the regulations simpler and easier to use. I provide a list of the majority below, and you will note that most focus on race planning.

## Definitions

### Race Definitions - Reasoning behind Changes

The traditional pointer started as a Maiden, went through the progressive races (Restricted and Intermediate) until hopefully winning Open races and running in the occasional Hunter chase. However, over the past 25 years there has been an increasing change with more horses returning from racing under rules to act as schoolmasters or to find a level of racing more suited to their advanced years. Whilst this has been a positive thing in numerous ways, including horse welfare, they do not fit into the traditional structure of point to point racing. As a result Club and Conditions races were developed which gave complete flexibility to those framing the races. Whilst there were some advantages, it was anarchic making it both difficult to understand and administer, whilst some Club races had less penalties than the Opens which were the supposedly the top races. The following changes to the race Definitions allow the advantages, whilst ensuring a general logic for all. In essence it provides the following:

In effect there are now seven types of races only:

- Open races. The top level of races with/without penalties

- Conditions races. Standard eligibility and penalty criteria for three different periods (Levels 1 to 3). These are for horses which struggle in Open races but are not qualified for progressive races
- Intermediate races. For those who have not won Open races
- Restricted Races. For those who have not won a race other than a Maiden, a Flat race or a Hunt race
- Maiden Races. For those who have not won anything other than a p2p flat race
- Flat race. Only open to those who have never run in another type of race.
- Hunt race. Only open to those qualified with the Hunt(s) concerned, but any number of penalties, conditions and restrictions can be applied.

**Restrictions.** Fixtures can then apply further Restrictions to all of the above within the parameters laid out in PPAGI-1 Race Framing for each type of race. These restrictions might include:

- Horse: Mares and/or age
- Rider: Gender and/or age and/or Novice
- Area(s): replacement for confined/adjacent.
- Trainer: Number of horses / Owner-Trainer

In doing this several types of race have now been removed including Confined, Club, Society or Service Races, although those run in previous years will be considered as Conditions races Level 1 for the purpose of eligibility and penalties.

The following is also provided as a block in this year's regulations and Planner but they will be alphabetical

**"Open Point-to-Point Steeple Chase"** is a race open to any horse, except where further restrictions have been imposed, to be termed as a 'Mens'(to be ridden by Gentlemen), 'Ladies' (to be ridden by Ladies), or 'Mixed' (to be ridden by either Ladies or Gentlemen) Open Steeplechase.

**"Conditions Point-to-Point Steeple Chase"** is a race open to any horse which satisfies the conditions of the race and which at starting, other than for the final of a national Conditions Series, has not won more than three Conditions Point-to-Point Steeple Chases

Note: For the purpose of calculating penalties and eligibility, all races run before the 2020/21 Point-to-Point Season termed Confined or Club, and which were not Open, Intermediate, Restricted, Maiden or Hunt races, will be considered Conditions races.

**"Intermediate Point-to-Point Steeple Chase"** is a race open to any horse, except where further restrictions have been imposed, which at starting has not won:

- (i) a Steeplechase or Hurdle Race under the Rules of any Recognised Racing Authority, and/or
- (ii) an Open Point-to-Point Steeple Chase, and/or
- (iii) more than one Intermediate Steeple Chase, and/or
- (iv) more than two Conditions or Intermediate Steeple Chases (in any combination).

**"Restricted Point-to-Point Steeple Chase"** is a race open to any horse, except where further restrictions have been imposed (or if it is confined to specific Hunts, Clubs, Associations or Services), which, at starting, has not won any Race under the Rules of any Recognised Racing Authority other than National Hunt Flat races or Flat races, or any Point-to-Point Steeple Chase other than Maiden Races, or Hunt Members Races.

**“Maiden Point-to-Point Steeple Chase”** is a race open to any horse, except where further restrictions have been imposed, which, at starting, has never won:

(i) a Point-to-Point Steeple Chase, or

(ii) a National Hunt Flat Race, Flat Race, Steeple Chase or Hurdle Race under the Rules of any Recognised Racing Authority, or

(iii) an Arabian Horse Race

**“(Point-to-Point) Flat Race”** is a race open to any horse, which at starting has not run in:

(i) a Point-to-Point Steeple Chase, or

(ii) a National Hunt Flat Race, Flat Race, Steeple Chase or Hurdle Race under the Rules of any Recognised Racing Authority, or

(iii) an Arabian Horse Race,

and which has not run in more than two Point-to-Point Flat Races or won a Point-to-Point Flat Race. No horse aged more than 5 years old will be eligible to start in a Point-to-Point flat race, except where specified in race conditions in January and February.

**“Hunt Members Point-to-Point Steeple Chase”** is a race for horses certified by an authorised signatory of a Hunt affiliated to a Point-to-Point Area to be the property of Masters, Members, Subscribers or Farmers of that Hunt authorised to stage the meeting and if so desired, additional Hunt(s) up to an overall total of five for a race held under the provisions of Sub Regulation 72.

#### **Definitions - Other**

**“Novice Rider”** is a person who, up to and including 1 October 2020, has ridden a total of no more than five winners under the Rules of any Recognised Racing Authority or in Point-to-Point Steeple Chases or in Arabian Horse Races. NB Please note that the Planner will still give the day before the first meeting this year as no time to change – we will check if this affects anyone but we expect not.

**“Veteran Rider”** is a person who on or before 1 October 2020, has reached the age of 40 years.

**“Young Horse”** is a horse aged:

(i) between four and six years old (inclusive) from 1 January up to and including the end of February;

(ii) between four and five years old (inclusive) otherwise.

#### **Regulation 34 – Eligibility Changes**

The current regulation was written to protect point to points from trainers running horses, at short notice, either to pot hunt or to qualify them for important hunter chases, at a time when the season was only 16 weeks long, and the majority of horses were brought as youngstock for slow development including in the hunting field. However, the situation has now changed with no hunting required and many owners wanting a horse able to run shortly after arrival. Two other factors have also affected matters: the popularity of buying either Irish point to pointers, which are often held by licensed trainers, or NH handicappers, often as replacements for others that have a niggle.

Regulation 34 changes. (The 50 to 28 day changes are for a one year trial)

(iii) During any of the ~~50~~ 28 consecutive days prior to the day of closing of entries for the race for which the horse is being entered, has run in any race run under the Rules of any Recognised Racing Authority other than:-

(iv) During any of the ~~50~~ 28 days prior to the day of registering the Hunter Certificate,

(v) Date ~~10 Jun 2018~~ **October 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**

(vii) Date October 1<sup>st</sup> ~~2018~~ **2019**

### **Regulations 72 and 73 – Merging and reducing**

Regulations 72 and 73 drew a distinction between types of fixtures in an outdated way. It also caused confusion because amendments had in the past been applied to one or the other but not both. They have therefore been merged and reduced to:

*72. The programme shall not include more than the following:*

- (i) Two Open Steeple Chases (note this is a change and allows a Novice riders Mixed Open as well as one other)*
- (ii) One Intermediate Steeple Chase.*
- (iii) One Restricted Steeple Chase.*
- (iv) Three Maiden Steeple Chases (two if a Point-to-Point Flat Race is also being run).*
- (v) Four Conditions Steeple Chases.*
- (vi) One Point-to-Point Flat Race.*
- (vii) One Hunt Members' or Military Service Steeplechase*
- (viii) One additional Hunt Members Race over natural country which has been authorised by the British Horseracing Authority.*

*Up to two Steeple Chases may be run over 2m4f, unless at least one is a Maiden in which case up to three Steeple Chases may be run over 2m4f.*

### **WEIGHTS – REGULATION 74**

The introduction of 4 year olds with 21lb allowances to 6+ year olds and 14lbs allowance to 5 year olds from January through to June has caused considerable controversy since their arrival as they often win very easily by skipping away from the last. There have been several technical in the past, and it is noticeable that there are fewer complaints in the last quarter of the year when the allowance reduces to 7lbs. We have therefore sought middle ground based on same thinking of weight for age (wfa) sliding scale used for 5 year olds cf 6+.

This means that:

Jan-Feb	4 year olds continue to received 21 lb and 14lb differential (as before)
Mar-Apr	4 year olds receive 14lb and 10lb differential
May-Jun	4 year olds receive 10lb differential
Oct-Dec	4 year olds receive 7lb differential (as before)

NB regulatory clearance has also been given to allow some Maidens to be run with no weight for age allowance, where an alternative is provided.

**Flat Races – Ages – Regulation 74.** Following requests, we have readjusted regulations to allow 6 year olds to run in flat races in January and February.

**Penalties – Regulation 75.** Regulation 75 should be read in conjunction with PPAGI 1 - Race Framing. The latter operates within the Regulations but provides further restrictions, and can be more easily modified in the future.

The primary changes are:

- **All Open Races.**

*In all Open Steeple Chases the following penalty for three wins between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020 must be imposed:*

*5lbs for the winner of:*

- (a) three or more Steeple Chases, Hurdle Races or Flat Races under the Rules of any recognised Turf Authority, or*
- (b) two or more Steeple Chases, Hurdle Races or Flat Races under the Rules of any recognised Turf Authority and one or more Open Point to Point Steeple Chase.*

This was to ensure that top horses returning to p2p each year have to carry some initial penalty for their successes in previous years. However, please note that the maximum penalty that can be carried in any Open race is 7lbs

- **Conditions Races.** Remain as last year. However, they are given different levels based on the dates the eligibility or penalties act from
  - 1 Oct 20. Level 1 (only from 1 Mar 21)
  - 1 Oct 19. Level 2
  - 1 Oct 18. Level 3

It is hoped that this will let all horses find their competitive level.

- **Intermediate races.** Please note that a horse can win one Intermediate race and still run in them carrying a penalty of 5lbs. However, it can only win a maximum of two Conditions or Intermediate races. It is hoped that this will increase numbers.
- **Maiden Races.** This will not affect stewarding on the day but the PPAGI now lays down various criteria whereby if more than one Maiden being run, a YHM cannot have the weight advantage in more than one race on the day unless other restrictions. There are two new types of Maidens resulting:
  - **No weight for age Maiden Races.** As discussed above
  - **Maiden Conditions Race.** This is where a horse must have run at least twice before.

**Prize Money – Regulation 76.** Recognising that both Hunt races and Flat races have now become slightly different from normal p2p races, fixtures now have some flexibility and can reduce prize money for these two races to zero. It is not believed that this will be taken up very often.

NB If a fixture is forced to run behind closed doors with no crowds, special dispensation will be sought to allow reduction of prize money for YHM and Opens.