



JUDGING PROCEDURES

BHA INSTRUCTIONS

BROADCAST RUNNING COMMENTARIES

5.5 The Clerk of the Course should ensure that the commentator ceases his commentary JUST before the horses pass the winning post. **In close finishes he should in no circumstances give out on the Public Address system his version of the placings, thereby pre-empting the decision of the Judge.** Neither should he make any other comment before, during or after a race which may wrongly interpret or pre-empt the actions of any official on duty.

JUDGES

8.3 The Organising Committee must ensure that the Judge has an assistant judge and the Judge has at least a wagon to stand on, with weather protection if possible. **The wagon is to be for the sole use of the Judge and must be sited at least 12 yards (if possible 20 yards) back from the winning line.** Furthermore, the Organising Committee shall seek to provide the Judge with additional elevation should he request it. A table near the Clerk of the Scales should also be provided in the Weighing Tent for the Judge.

(a) The Judge is responsible for placing the first four horses past the winning post and giving the distances between the 1st and 2nd and 2nd and 3rd horses. Occasionally, in a Hunt Members race for example, he may also be required to place the first farmer past the post. In addition, on occasions where the Judge considers that there may be a disqualification(s) at the conclusion of a race (e.g. runners appear to have taken different routes, or a rider's weight cloth has fallen off during the race) he should place such additional horses past the post as he sees fit. This will enable the Stewards to officially promote e.g. the 5th, 6th etc. horses in the event of a disqualification. The Judge is also responsible for recording the official race times on his return and will arrange for the time-keeper to be alongside him throughout the race.

(b) The suggested procedure in Appendix B has been devised to minimise the risk of the Judge making a mistake.

(c) The procedure is based on the use of colours and their interpretation into numbers. In a similar way a commentator interprets colours into horses' names.

(d) The method used by British Horseracing Authority Judges is to list colours by numbers through the spectrum from white to black so that it is easy to look at the correct place in a list to identify a runner. Main body colours are used as far as possible as caps are liable to blow off and number cloths are often deceptive.

(e) The detailed and recommended procedure is described in Appendix B. An example of a Judge's result card is illustrated in Appendix J.

(f) The Judge must ensure that a complete list of entries and colours has been sent to him by the Point-to-Point Secretary and that a pad of Judge's Result Cards has also been provided not later than the day before the meeting.

Declarations

(g) When declarations have closed 45 minutes before each race a duplicate copy must immediately be available to the Judge and Stewards.

Colour Changes

(h) The Clerk of the Scales must inform the Judge of any colour change noted as he weighs riders out.

Results

(i) In the interests of the public, the Judge must get the result of a race as horses pass the post announced by the Broadcaster as quickly as possible. It is therefore strongly recommended that the Judge is provided with a radio handset.

(j) In any case it is essential that the Judge's official result card, duly signed, is passed to the Clerk of the Scales who signs it when weighing-in is complete and at the end of the day hands all result cards to the Secretary.

BHA REGULATIONS

OFFICIALS

21. In case of emergency, the Stewards may, appoint a substitute to fill any of the offices for that Meeting.

JUDGE

25. (i) One Judge or a substitute authorised by the Stewards under Regulation 21 only shall be appointed and he must occupy the place designated by the Stewards as the Judge's Stand when the first horse passes the winning post or the race will be void. He must remain in that place until such time as all the horses which are in a position to complete the course have passed the winning post and his decision in this matter shall be final. No horse which passes the winning post after the Judge has left the stand shall be placed.

(ii) The Judge must announce his decision immediately on the first four horses placed and shall determine the winner according to the first part of the horse's head, excluding the ears and tongue, which is the first past the winning post, the remaining placings being determined in a similar manner, and **such decision shall be final, unless an objection to the winner, or any placed horses, is made and sustained: provided that this Regulation shall not prevent a Judge from correcting any mistake, such correction being subject to confirmation by the Stewards.**

(iii) The Judge shall, at the close of each day's racing, sign and present a report of the result of each race to the Clerk of the Course.

140. (iv) An objection to a horse on the grounds of.....

.....must be made within five minutes after the winner has been weighed in, or, within five minutes of the time the Judge has announced his decision on all placings, whichever be later (see also Regulation 141(iii)), or should the Judge revise his original decision before the five minutes have elapsed, within five minutes of the revised decision being given. The Stewards may extend the above period if they are satisfied that it could not have been made within that time.

No objection on any other ground than these shall be heard within this time.