



Rule Changes 15 January 2025

The CIHA Announces that the following amendments to the Rules of Racing have been made and will come into effect on 1 February 2025:

Manual (A)

1. Rules 70.1 and 70.2 shall be amended so that references to “Steward’s decision” are replaced with “Steward’s or WRC’s decision”;
2. Rule 74 shall be amended so that reference to “decision by the Stewards” is replaced by “decision by the Stewards or WRC”
3. In the Definitions section the following shall be added:

WRC means the Whip Review Committee as constituted under (B) Rule 50.A.2.

4. The following shall be added to Schedule 1 (Fees):

(B) 24.A. Review by the Handicapper Review Committee £50

Manual (B)

5. New rules for the introduction of whip reviews shall be introduced by the introduction of a new Rule 50.A.

50.A Whip Review

50.A. 1 Within 7 days of a race the WRC may review any race to consider if there has been a breach of Rule (B)50.3.

50.A.2 The WRC shall be made up of the Head of Racing and the Head of Integrity. If one or more of them is not available then the Authority will appoint a person to act in their stead. The quorum of the WRC is two and decisions must be made unanimously.

50.A.3 The WRC shall meet in private. The Rider will not be entitled to appear before the WRC and will not be given an opportunity to submit any further representations to those made in the Stewards’ room on the day of the race.

50.A.4. If the WRC determine that there is a potential additional breach which the Rider has not had an opportunity to respond to on the raceday, the Rider will be notified in writing. The Rider will then be given an opportunity to submit a written response. Any response must be served electronically within 48 hours of receiving the notification. The WRC will then consider that matter following receipt of the response.

50.A.5. The WRC has the power to impose any sanction that the Stewards’ could impose under the Rules.

- 50.A.6. The WRC will draft written reasons in all cases.
- 50.A.7. Any riding suspension imposed on a Rider by the WRC take effect in the same way as riding suspensions imposed by the Stewards as set out in paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to Manual (B).
- 50.A.8. If a Rider has been found by the WRC to be in breach of Rule (B)50.3. and the number of strikes (excluding those found to be clearly and unequivocally for safety purposes) is 4 or more above the permitted level then the horse shall be disqualified.
- 50.A.9. Any appeal against the decision of the WRC to suspend a Rider or disqualify a horse shall follow the same procedure as appeals against the decisions of the Stewards as set out in Rule 70 of Manual (A).
- 50.A.10. Any riding suspension shall take effect in accordance with the timetable set down in Rule 74 of Manual (A).

6. In the Definitions section the following shall be added:

WRC means the Whip Review Committee as constituted under Rule 50.A.2.

Manual (F)

7. New rules to regulate the operation of small unmanned aircraft (Drones) shall be introduced by the addition of new Rule 17.A. as follows:
- 17.A.1. Use of any small unmanned aircraft on a Racecourse must be prior approved by the Authority and in accordance with the Authority's guidance document relating to the use of small unmanned aircraft.
8. New rules for the introduction of handicap reviews shall be introduced by amendment to Rule 24. And the introduction of new Rule 24.A. as follows:
- 24.6. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Handicapper may refer the matter to the HRC in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule 24A.
- 24.7. The HRC shall, on referral by connections of a horse in accordance with these Rules, review the horse's rating, or any non-allocation of a rating, since the horse's most recent performance.
- 24.8. The HRC shall have up to three members, two of which shall be the Head of Racing and the Head of Integrity. The third member shall be an independent person appointed by the Authority.
- 24.9. The quorum for meetings of the HRC shall be two. In the case of three members attending then decisions of the HRC shall be made by majority. If two members attend then the decision must be unanimous.
- 24.10. The fee specified in Schedule 1 of Manual (A) shall be payable by the owner of the horse.
- 24.A. **Process for connections unhappy with a rating (or a refusal to allot a rating)**

- 24.A.1. In the first instance, connections should contact the Handicapper via email or phone to discuss their concern(s). The Handicapper will then review the horse's rating, or any non-allocation of a rating, since the horse's most recent performance.
 - 24.A.2. If the concerns are not addressed to the satisfaction of connections then the next step is to approach the HRC. This should be done by email to the Head of Racing.
 - 24.A.3. The HRC will review the case from first principles, independent of the Handicapper.
 - 24.A.4. The fee specified in Schedule 1 of Manual (A) shall be payable by the owner of the horse.
9. As a consequence of the above, Rule 77.3. is amended as follows:
- The Authority may permit
- 77.3.1. a weight to be added for a horse where the horse was duly entered for the race but its name or weight was omitted from the Handicap; or
 - 77.3.2. a correction to be made where an incorrect weight has been published; or
 - 77.3.3. the HRC has revised the Handicap Rating.
10. In the Definitions section the following shall be added:
- HRC** means the Handicap Review Committee as constituted under Rule 24.8.