

8.6 FENCE ATTENDANTS

- (a) Organising Committees must ensure that Fence Attendants are fully conversant with their 'Duties and Authority' (See Appendix (8)E). It is suggested that these 'Duties' are laminated and pinned to the fences so that First Aid Personnel and Fence Attendants can make easy reference to them if necessary.

The Clerk of the Course shall be responsible for ensuring that all Fence Attendants have attended a briefing and a practical demonstration of by-passing procedures at a fence and have checked that they are fully aware of their duties before the start of racing (see Appendix (8)K 'Clerk of the Course Briefing Checklist').

- (b) There must be two Fence Attendants at every fence on the course that is jumped more than once during the running of a race. Fence Attendants should ordinarily have no other duties during racing and it should be noted that First Aid Attendants do not constitute Fence Attendants. Fence Attendants should be issued with distinctive vests/ armbands which must be worn at all times during racing.

- (c) Fence Attendants will ensure that at the fence assigned to them there is:

- (i) Two Direction Markers indicating which side of the fence the horses are to be directed as shown (Appendix (8)G).

- (ii) One black and white chequered flag and a Fox 40 whistle to alert riders to a hazard ahead as shown (Appendix (8)G).

- (iii) One white flag to alert a medical requirement to the fence

- (iv) One orange flag to alert a veterinary requirement to the fence

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PURPOSE OF EACH FLAG SHOULD BE WRITTEN ON THE FLAGPOLE.

- (d) The Fence Attendant will ensure that no unauthorised persons plant Direction Markers in fences when a horse or rider has fallen or a fence is not to be jumped. The responsibility for planting Direction Markers is to be that of the Fence Attendant who is responsible for that fence. The Direction Markers must be planted as soon as possible after there is an obstruction and the decision to by-pass the fence is made.

When the Direction Markers are not in use they must be stored away from the fence and with the legs pointing downwards. It is not acceptable to lean them against the fence or the wings.

- (e) If a fence is unsafe to jump (e.g. injured horse/rider, broken fence/ wing etc.) and the decision to by-pass it is made, the Fence Attendants responsibilities are as follows:

- (i) Plant the sets of Direction Markers in the top of the fence opposite the obstruction, to indicate to riders that the fence must not be jumped and in order that loose horses are directed away from the obstruction.

- (ii) Use the black and white chequered warning flag and the Fox 40 whistle to alert riders to a hazard ahead. The Fence Attendant must not endanger themselves and should position themselves about 70 yds in front of and on the opposite side of the fence to that which the runners are directed (Appendix (8)G).

- (iii) Once a fence has already been by-passed during the course of a race, the Direction Markers should remain in situ until the end of the race. This avoids any confusion/danger on the final circuit(s) in the event of the obstruction being cleared as the runners approach and leaving the Fence Attendant with a potentially split-second decision as to whether there is enough time to remove the Direction Markers.

Note: Unless it is absolutely safe to do so, Direction Markers should not be put in place whilst some horses have still to jump the fence on the same circuit.