

Retention of Entry Fees

Background

Fixtures until 1 March can decide not to refund entries providing it is clearly stated in the Planner and at entries. Approximately 50% of all fixtures in January and February take this approach with two reserving the right to retain 50%.

However, this causes immense irritation amongst participants, who do not understand the difference between the finances of a p2p and a licensed course. It is therefore imperative that it is clear that it looked likely racing would go ahead when entries were open and every opportunity has been taken to run. Therefore, what cannot be done is that entry money is taken and then within two days the fixture is declared off with entry money forfeit as this could be claimed to be fraudulent and leads the sport into disrepute.

Currently, this is explained and discussed on each occasion often leading to late decisions and possibly a loss of entries. It is therefore proposed to introduce an instruction which covers the majority of options.

Instruction

- **If it is clear 10 days before that the fixture will not run**, it should be declared cancelled with entries not opening. Providing there is unanimous agreement between Clerk of Course, Hunt, Chief Steward and Inspector, the HBLB grant will be paid.
- **If there is some reason to doubt the fixture will run at time of entries**, it will be declared that there are concerns and the fixture will be abandoned in the following circumstances:
 - Thursday or before – entries refunded
 - Friday or after – entry money will be withheld

NB The decision for this declaration should be reached between the Clerk of Course, Course Inspector and Chair of P2P. If it is clear that there could be a problem and no such declaration has been made, PPA/PPSA reserve the right to engage.

The above dates are not hard but based on when decisions have been made for further costs including: racecard printing; marquee erection; food purchase. This is on the basis that a vigorous defence can be raised that a fixture has taken on extra costs during the week which outweigh entry money.

In other words the retention of entry money is to defray the immediate costs of setting up a point to point.