

Retention of Entry Fees

Background

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

However, this can cause 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 was likely racing would go ahead when entries were open, and that every opportunity has been taken to run. Therefore, what cannot be done is (eg) 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 lead the sport into disrepute.

Currently, this is explained and discussed at individual fixture level, which often leads to late decisions and possibly to lower entries. It is therefore proposed that we 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 the Clerk of Course, Hunt, Chief Steward and Course Inspector, the HBLB grant will be paid.
- **If there is some reason to doubt the fixture will run at the 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 the Chair of the P2P. If it is clear that there could be an issue and that no such declaration has been made, the PPA/PPSA reserve the right to engage.

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

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