

JUDGE ROLE AND REQUIREMENTS

- 8.7 The Organising Committee must ensure that the Judge has a Judge's Assistant. They should also be provided with a judge's box or wagon (see below) upon which to stand and a table near the Clerk of Scales.

The judge's box/wagon should be:

- At least 12m preferably 20m from the nearside finishing post.
- It should be elevated to a level from which more than one horse can be observed if close together.

Note: The further back from the finishing post the more height will be needed to achieve the same angle of viewing.

- Weather protection should be provided if at all possible, particularly for any electronic equipment
- A stable platform for setting up the video camera which must be set up on the prolongation of the winning line.

Note: The Judge must be looking along the same line so there must be enough depth to the platform.

Confirmation/clarification must be sought from the Area in advance of the meeting that it is providing the video camera/video and what accessories are available to achieve the platform (e.g. tripod). If the Area equipment is not available, the course/Judge must find and utilise technology which can achieve at least 120 fps (equivalent of 12.5 cm forward movement per frame).

The Judge must have easy access to a laptop onto which clips of the finish can be sent for detailed checks in the event of a close race. The laptop should be provided to the Stewards if there is an objection to the result.

The Area must provide the Judge with full instruction on how to use the technology provided.

Duties:

- (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, they 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) they should place such additional horses past the post as they see 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 their return and should arrange for the time-keeper to be alongside them throughout the race.

- (b) The suggested procedure in Appendix (8)H has been devised to minimise the risk of the Judge making a mistake. 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.

- (c) The method used by BHA 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.
- (d) An example of a Judge's Result Card is illustrated in Appendix (8)J.
- (e) The Judge must ensure that a complete list of entries and colours has been sent to them by the Fixture Secretary and that a pad of Judge's Result Cards has also been provided not later than the day before the meeting.

On the Day - Declarations

- (f) When declarations have closed 1 hour before each race a duplicate copy of the Declarations Sheet must immediately be available to the Judge.

On the Day - Colour Changes

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

On the Day - Results

- (h) In the interests of the public, the Judge must get the result of a race announced by the Broadcaster as quickly as possible. It is therefore strongly recommended that the Judge is provided with a radio handset.
- (i) In any case it is essential that the Judge's 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 Fixture Secretary.

Use of the Photo-Finish Technology

The Judge will continue to use their naked eye, along with that of their Assistant, to judge the race. However, they must use technology to provide video evidence to confirm their decision and as an aid to estimate finishing distances.

Technology must not be used in place of a Judge's Assistant.

The camera/video must be set up exactly along the prolongation of the front edge of the finishing line with the necessary elevation to achieve visibility of more than one horse if close together. This will normally be done by the Area representative providing the equipment, but the Judge should check that it is working, and that there are several spare batteries, before racing starts.

On completion of a race, if the result is close, the Judge and their Assistant should first check the video evidence to confirm their findings and ensure no identification mistakes have been made. If it remains unclear "the Judge is reviewing the finish" should be announced over the PA system.

Once both the Judge and Assistant are agreed that the result is clear, they may give that result but as no closer than a short head. If the camera indicates that the result is not clear, they must give the result as a dead heat. Note: Camera/Video footage is not the same as a photo finish.

If a mistake is found to have been made after weighed in has been announced, the Judge may change their decision, following consultation with the Stewards. If this occurs the bookmakers are not under any obligation to pay out a second time.

At the end of the meeting the video clips should be sent to the PPA Office at info@p2pa.co.uk Clips will be held by the PPA and made available to the BHA, on request, if required for an enquiry or appeal.