

POINT-TO-POINT INSTRUCTION **CHANGES FOR 2024/25 SEASON**

CANCELLATION OF MEETING/REMOVAL OF APPROVAL (REGULATION 1(i)) (as reviewed and rewritten 08.11.24)

- 1.5 In exercising its powers under Regulation 1(i) of the Regulations for Point-to-Point Steeple Chases, no Hunt that is suspended by the BHSA or has one of its senior officers (e.g. Master or Chairperson) suspended by the BHSA for hunt related matters, will be allowed by the BHA to hold a Point-to-Point or be a party to a Point-to-Point for the period of the suspension or for a period of one full calendar month after the suspension has expired.

The PPA (through its Board and the powers delegated to it by the BHA) will consider:

- any appeal against the cancellation of a Point-to-Point Fixture (as detailed above);
- what action, if any, should be taken when only a temporary suspension has been imposed whilst further investigation into the validity and merits of a complaint are carried out;
- any application from a Point-to-Point Organising Committee that their fixture should be allowed to continue because of a change in circumstance relating to the suspended Hunt or its officer's involvement.

Hunts will be allowed to apply for a re-scheduled fixture date once their suspension period has expired and such applications will be considered against the existing Fixture List and granted subject to a suitable date being available.

The PPA will also consider withdrawing approval for any Point-to-Point fixture with immediate effect for any number of reasons including, but not limited to; if it believes the running of the fixture will bring the BHA, PPA, Point-to-Pointing or wider horse racing into disrepute, cause reputational damage to any party, damage the image of Point-to-Pointing or wider associated horse racing, have a negative impact on public perception of the sport or its social licence.

Any decision to be made by the PPA will require a majority vote by available PPA board members, with a minimum quorate of four, made up of three board members and the Chair, three board members and the Chief Executive Officer, or two board members the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer.

INSPECTION OF COURSES

- 3.3 Every course will have appointed to it:
- a BHA Inspector of Courses (BHA Inspector) with overall responsibility for any decision relating to racing on the course; and
 - a part-time BHA Local Inspector (Local Inspector) with responsibility for day-to-day discussions with the course and for carrying out pre-raceday and raceday inspections. (see Appendix (3)B 'Selection, Training and Assessment of Local Inspector' and Appendix (3)C 'Local Inspector – Pre-Raceday and Raceday Checklist').

...At the conclusion of the meeting the Local Inspector will send a report, covering both their pre-raceday and raceday inspections, to the BHA. Local

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Inspectors are advised to discuss the content of their report with the Clerk of the Course on the day and a copy of the report will subsequently be provided to the Clerk of the Course, the Fixture Secretary and the Area Secretary.

Appendix (3)B - Local Inspector – Training and Accreditation

ONGOING TRAINING

13. Thereafter, a Local Inspector must attend one training course every two years put on jointly by the BHA and PPA

Appendix (3)C - Local Inspector – Pre-raceday and Raceday Checklist

PRE-RACEDAY

1. Track

Going Racing surface, Animal Scrapings, False ground, Crossings/Run throughs [Inst 3.12, 8.1]
Course layout Starts, Finishing post, Bends, Markers, Vehicle parking areas [Inst 3.6]
Fences/Wings Number, Condition, Dimensions, Take off/landings, Wings, Advertising hoardings, Bypassing (min 5yds) [Inst 3.4, App (3)A]
Equipment Bypass arrows, Flags, Fox 40 Whistles, Extra Course markers [Inst 3.6, App (8)E, App (8)F]
Starters Rostrum [Inst 8.5]
Judges Position Position of and clear sight of winning line [Inst 3.14, 8.7]
Stewards Positions Side on, Head on, View of track [Inst 8.8]

2. Facilities

Paddock/Winners Enclosure Size (16ft per horse), double railed, plastic mesh or metal crowd barrier with 6ft inner rope, Water provisions [Inst 3.8, 3.11]
Numbers Board [Inst 3.7]
Horse Box Park Water Provisions, Access [Inst 3.6, 6.4]
Weighing Area Correct signage, Changing areas, Stewards enquiry area [Inst 8.1, 8.8, App (8)E]
Car Parking Positions of..., Effect course/loose horses, Wider access [Inst 3.4, 3.6]
Gates Manned/closed [Inst 3.6]

3. Medical Arrangements [Inst 10]

Riders Medical Area [Inst 8.1]
Air Ambulance landing provision with 'what3word' position [Inst 3.6, 6.8]

4. Veterinary Arrangements [Inst 9]

Casualty Storage Area Designated area, Secure, Private, Undercover (Barn/Fence tarp) [Inst 8.1, 9.4]
Ambulance and Recovery Front Unloading Ambulance, High-sided and Covered Recovery Vehicle [Inst 8.1, 9.2]
Water Provisions Mobile water, Locations, Refillable, Buckets [Inst 8.1, 9.2]
Screens Number of..., Positions of..., Viewing holes, [Inst 8.1, 9.2]

5. Rapid Response Vehicle

Provision of..., Position of... and by whom [Inst 6.8, 8.1 App (6)A]
Training [App (6)A]

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Raceday communication How and with whom [App (6)A]

6. Stop Race Procedure/By passing/Hazard ahead

Stop-Race Flags(min 3)* Positions [Inst 8.1, App (8)K]

* Stop-Race Reminder All stop race flags to be raised in event of stop race

Fence Attendants Provision of..., Training, Raceday Communication [Inst 8.6, App (8)E]

By-Pass Demonstration Where and when to be done on raceday [Inst 8.1, App (8)K]

Loose horse plan Catching areas, access points/gates closed, etc. [Inst 6.7]

RACEDAY

1. General

Recheck all previous provisions and that everything that wasn't in place for the pre-raceday inspection has been provided as per earlier discussion.

Check that any work requested at the pre-raceday inspection has been carried out

2. Provision of Services

Medical Attendance

Veterinary Attendance (incl. Horse Ambulance and Recovery Vehicle)

Fence Attendants

3. Pre-Race Briefing

Attend briefing (see Appendix (8)K 'Clerk of the Course briefing Checklist')

4. During and Post-Racing

Liaise with Officials, SRMO and SPVS to identify any concerns re. facilities and arrangements

Debrief with Clerk of the Course

Complete Report Form and return to BHA

Raise any serious concerns with BHA Inspector

DIVISION OF RACES AT DECLARATION (REGULATION 113) & BALLOTING PROCEDURES

- 4.4 If, on the day of the Meeting the number of declared runners exceeds the Safety Factor, the Stewards shall order a division to be carried out and deadlines for declarations put back to the appropriate later time(s). **A race cannot be divided if the number of declared runners does not exceed the Safety Factor.**

SERIOUS INCIDENT/FATALITY MANAGEMENT

- 6.8 Organising Committees must consider in advance and have procedures in place for dealing with any serious incident or fatality occurring during a race. Such procedures must, as a minimum, appoint an Incident Controller (IC) who will attend every such incident and be responsible for taking charge of controlling the incident in accordance with the Point-to-Point Incident Management procedures at Appendix (6)A.

Organising Committees must ensure that they have included in all applicable documentation and made all appropriate personnel (SRMO, SPVS, IC, Clerk of the Course, Fixture Secretary) aware of the 'What3Words' (www.what3words.com) location of the course and, more specifically, the emergency helicopter landing point.

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At an appropriate time on the day the following persons should be notified when any serious incident or jockey fatality occurs:

CEO PPA (Paul Miller) by Fixture Secretary
BHA Inspector/BHA Executive by Local Inspector
BHA Chief Medical Adviser (Jerry Hill) by SRMO

*Horse fatalities should continue to be notified to the BHA Chief Veterinary Adviser by the end-of-day return

Similar procedures, and command structures, should also be in place for dealing with any other major incident at a meeting

Appendix (6)A - POINT-TO-POINT INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

All Organising Committees must appoint an Incident Controller (IC) to take charge of serious incidents occurring in a race. The IC is the person responsible on the ground for attending any incident, taking charge of the situation, and thereby allowing the (S)RMO and (S)PVS to focus on their respective casualties.

The Clerk of the Course or, if suitably trained, any other person of the Organising Committee's choosing can be appointed to the position of IC but it must not be one of the (S)RMOs or (S)PVSs working at the meeting on the day. It is always advisable to have more than one person trained to act as IC so as to cover for illness, injury or multiple incidents in one race at different locations.

The Incident Controller (IC) must:

- Be suitably positioned on a Rapid Response Vehicle and be amongst the first attenders at an incident;
- Be clearly identifiable as the IC;
- Gather information from the attending (S)RMO and (S)PVS and carry out an immediate rapid (dynamic on site) risk assessment of the situation;
- Implement any safety critical actions – including Stop-Race/By-Pass/Hazard Warning;
- Advise the appropriate Officials of any actions taken so as secondary action can be implemented if necessary;
- Ensure the screens are correctly deployed at an appropriate time, position and distance – as agreed with (S)RMO and/or (S)PVS – jockeys need screening as well as injured horses;
- Control access to the 'inner cordon' (usually demarcated by the screens) to essential personnel only;
- Be aware of 'danger zone' around a recumbent horse and ensure nobody enters the 'zone';
- Maintain awareness of fractious, distressed or recovering horses and the potential dangers they may cause to the screen attendants;
- Keep the appropriate Officials apprised of any delay to racing which might be necessitated whilst the incident is ongoing. DO NOT discuss or mention actualities of incident or treatments.

The IC is there to Control, Command, Communicate and Conduct the response team on the ground so as to ensure everyone's safety and allow the (S)RMO and (S)PVS to do their jobs. The IC must understand and stick to their role – this does not include catching or restraining horses or holding screens.

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In making the decision as to what safety critical actions are necessary – Stop-Race, By-Pass, Hazard Warning – it is essential that the IC knows the course, the time that it takes for horses to arrive back at the incident on subsequent circuits, and the time that it takes to implement each action. Regular practice of dealing with Serious Incident scenarios ensures that the IC is clear in their role, and that all racecourse personnel are familiar with their own individual responsibilities and the role of the IC. All new team members must receive appropriate training to ensure they fully understand the same.

CLERK OF THE COURSE

8.1 The Clerk of the Course shall make all the necessary arrangements, as directed by the Organising Committee, to ensure that the Point-to-Point course is fit for racing on the day, as per these Instructions. Furthermore:

(c) Briefing. The Clerk of the Course has the responsibility at the beginning of the day to hold a briefing for all staff working on the racetrack on the use of each of the respective flags, the procedures for marking hazards at fences and directing the field around them (including the blowing of a Fox 40 whistle) and the emergency procedure for stopping a race. A 'Clerk of the Course Briefing Checklist' is at Appendix (8)K. The briefing MUST include a practical demonstration at a fence.

Prior to the briefing, the Clerk of the Course, SRMO, SPVS and Incident Controller (IC) should meet face to face to plan the management of any entrapment or serious incident. Thereafter, at the briefing the SRMO and SPVS, who should both be in attendance, should be asked to add their own comments. The Local Inspector should also be in attendance.

(f) Veterinary Personnel. The Clerk of the Course shall ensure that (S)PVSS:

- (i) have access to all parts of the course or have suitable locations provided to give veterinary coverage for the whole course;
- (ii) do not leave the course until all horses have been accounted for after the last race, and all requests for veterinary attention have been dealt with;
- (iii) have a suitable high-sided, covered recovery vehicle with specified driver who must remain with the vehicle throughout racing;
- (iv) have a horse ambulance with towing vehicle and specified driver, who is experienced in handling horses and must remain with the vehicle throughout racing. The horse ambulance must have been regularly serviced, contain partitions to allow an injured horse to be fully supported and have a front ramp so the horse can be unloaded in a forward direction. In the event that the horse ambulance becomes unavailable, on agreement with the SPVS, a suitable trailer may be used but must still have the requisite front ramp.

Note: No race should be commenced until the horse ambulance is in position.

- (v) are ideally provided with screens at the last two fences, on the Rapid Response Vehicle, horse ambulance and recovery vehicle, and at the unsaddling enclosure and Parade Ring;
- Note: Ideally, a minimum of seven (7) screens should be available on every course. They should be 8' high with windows and, those who may have to utilise them, to have received practical training in their use.

- (vi) are provided with ABUNDANT SUPPLIES OF FRESH, COOL WATER with which to treat horses potentially suffering from heat exhaustion. Water should be positioned adjacent to the Parade Ring, unsaddling enclosure, between the pull up and unsaddling enclosure (at a site

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- agreed with the SPVS), and at the horse box park. Ideally it should also be available at the last two fences. Water must also be carried on the horse ambulance and on the Rapid Response Vehicle. Static supplies may be provided in the form of ICBs or water butts, with buckets.
- (vii) are all provided with a radio

(m) Horse Disposal. The Clerk of Course must have a designated area, agreed in advance with the Local Inspector, for the placement of dead horses during the day, which is both secure and inaccessible to the public. All dead horses must be covered at all times so that aerial photos cannot be taken. The recovery vehicle should not keep dead horses on board or try to drag a second horse onto the first at the site of the incident. No race should be started until such time as the recovery vehicle is empty and back in position.

(n) Rapid Response Vehicle. The Clerk of the Course must ensure that a four-wheel drive vehicle is provided to the person designated by the Organising Committee as the Incident Controller (IC), so as they can rapidly attend any incident and take control of its management on the ground (see Appendix (6)A 'Point-to-Point Incident Management'). The Rapid Response Vehicle must also carry screens and water

FENCE ATTENDANTS

- (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 COMMENDED THAT THE PURPOSE OF EACH FLAG SHOULD BE WRITTEN ON THE FLAGPOLE

APPENDIX (8)E - FENCE ATTENDANTS – DUTIES AND AUTHORITY

EQUIPMENT

FLAGS:

1. DOCTOR/AMBULANCE White
2. VET Orange
3. HAZARD WARNING (to RIDERS) Black & White Chequered

FOX 40 WHISTLE

DIRECTION MARKER X 2 – BLACK BOARD WITH DISTINCTIVE FLUORESCENT YELLOW CHEVRONS*

DISTINCTIVE VEST/ARMBAND – TO IDENTIFY THE FENCE ATTENDANTS

***NOTE: From the 2026/27 Season three Direction Markers will be required at each fence with a distinctive arrow rather than chevron – thereby matching those used under Rule. Point-to-Point Course may make the change at any time before but what ever Direction Markers they are using MUST be uniform across the course i.e. chevrons and arrows cannot be used at different fences.**

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APPENDIX (8)K - CLERK OF THE COURSE BRIEFING CHECKLIST

Before racing commences the Clerk of the Course must carry out a briefing of everyone working on the racetrack. It should be conducted approximately one hour before racing commences.

The following persons must be present:

- Clerk of the Course
- Incident Controller (IC)
- (S)RMO and paramedic team
- (S)PVS and wider vet team to include ambulance and recovery drivers
- Course Repair Team
- Fence Attendants
- Local Inspector and BHA Inspector (if present)

The following must be covered:

- Duties of a Fence Attendant
- Incident Control
- Incident management involving injured jockey (SRMO)
- Incident management involving injured horse (SPVS)
- Incident management involving horse and jockey to include 'trapped jockey' scenario (SRMO and SPVS)
- Stop Race Procedure
- Vehicle positioning
- Screen availability and positioning
- Water availability

DUTIES OF A FENCE ATTENDANT

- Wear distinctive vest/armband
- Check you have right equipment: flags, whistle, fence paddle, screen if allocated
- Be aware of your personal safety at all times particularly around a recumbent horse
- Repair and maintain fence and ground around it
- Ensure Bypass areas are always kept clear (e.g. vehicles attending an incident)
- Be aware of the time taken to do a circuit and thus the available time to make a decision
- If a fence (or course within the vicinity) is broken or obstructed ensure:
 1. Direction markers placed in fence (pointing the correct way) placed directly opposite the jockey/horse to deter loose horses from jumping.
 2. Appropriate flag deployed i.e. vet/doctor/warning
 3. Radio information as appropriate
 4. If a fence or obstruction is to be bypassed then the chequered flag should be deployed on the approach at a distance of about 70 yards
 5. The attendant should stand on the opposite side of the fence/incident to the intended direction of bypass
 6. The flag must be held above the head and waved in such a way as to get the attention of the jockeys. A whistle must be blown in long sharp bursts
 7. Once bypass arrows are erected they should remain in place for the duration of the race
 8. Radio users should be aware that their comments may be overheard by members of the public so remain discreet at all times.
 9. Listen to the directions provided by the IC, (S)RMO and (S)PVS at major incidents involving injured jockeys and/or horses.
 10. If available assist with screen erection and holding. Screen erection must be rapid particularly in public areas. Be sure to follow any directions provided by the IC, (S)RMO or (S)PVS as to position of screens and distance from the

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injured party. Be sure to remain aware of what is happening behind the screens and communicate with other screen holders.

INCIDENT CONTROLLER (IC)

One person (usually a member of the Rapid Response Team) must be designated at the start of the meeting to take charge of control at a major incident involving injured jockeys and/or horses. The person is referred to as the Incident Controller (IC) and should be clearly identifiable and known to the racecourse team. Their role is to arrive promptly and to take charge at an incident and to ensure the safety of all those involved. They will ensure that screens are erected correctly where appropriate and liaise with the (S)RMO and (S)PVS in cases involving injured jockeys/horses to establish the situation and to make decisions regarding the management of the incident and the race itself. If not the Clerk of the Course, they will liaise with them to ensure they are fully informed and that appropriate decisions are made regarding the management of the race. They will also ensure that connections and bystanders do not enter the Danger Zone and interfere with the activities of the (S)RMO and (S)PVS.

SRMO: INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – INJURED JOCKEY

The SRMO will make it very clear at the briefing what is expected of everyone in the event of a jockey being injured. Invariably the job of the fence attendant/IC is to make the area safe and allow the (S)RMO to conduct their duties in a safe and private environment.

SPVS: INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – INJURED HORSE

As for the SRMO but in this scenario there is the added risk of persons being injured by the patient and the SPVS will describe and demonstrate the 'Danger Zone' around a recumbent horse and why it is important that no one enters that zone. Fence attendants and others should be made aware by clear instruction if a recumbent horse is about to be rolled or is likely to get up suddenly in order to ensure everyone's personal safety. The IC should liaise with the (S)PVS to transfer relevant information to those holding screens.

SRMO AND SPVS: INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – INJURED JOCKEY AND HORSE

The SRMO and SPVS will describe what the process will be if a jockey is down and in the Danger Zone or worse that the jockey is 'trapped' by a recumbent horse. In such scenarios the (S)RMO and (S)PVS will quickly liaise and determine the appropriate course of action. It is again the role of the IC to ensure that both are working in a safe and private environment.

STOP RACE PROCEDURE

A yellow and orange flag will be deployed in the event that a STOP RACE scenario needs to be implemented. Such flags are only held by those authorised to do so and the Clerk of the Course and/or IC will have control of such a decision and will have suitably briefed those who are responsible for implementing the procedure.

SCREENS

Everyone working as part of the racecourse team should be made aware of the position and availability of screens and how they should be erected to ensure the safety and privacy of those involved in dealing with incidents. On windy days it must be expected that further help may be required to hold screens and this must be prioritised as necessary once a race is over. Fence attendants should be made aware to position screens at least 2-3 meters away from a recumbent horse and follow the directions of the IC and (S)PVS as to any adjustments that need to be made. It is important that screens are rapidly erected particularly in public areas but there will be occasions when the (S)RMO or (S)PVS instruct they are happy that the incident does not require screening.

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WATER AVAILABILITY

Large quantities of water and buckets must be available at the unsaddling area, winners enclosure, paddock, lorry park and between the pull up and unsaddling enclosure (at a site agreed with the SPVS). Also if possible between last two fences. Mobile water must always be available. All personnel should be aware of the positioning of water supplies and assist in ensuring that it is available to the veterinary team as required particularly on hot days and in the case of injured horses on the racecourse

VETERINARY ARRANGEMENTS - PROVISION OF SERVICES

9.2 Pre-Raceday

- (i) Three Veterinary Surgeons (S)PVSs MUST be appointed; one appointed at least two months prior to the Meeting to act as the Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS) and to take charge of all the veterinary arrangements.

Unless already accredited as an approved Senior Racecourse Veterinary Surgeon (SRVS), any Veterinary Surgeon acting as Senior at a point-to-point must have completed the BHA (Racing to Learn) online Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS) training. Organisers are responsible for checking that the SPVS they appoint has carried out the necessary training and is accredited as either an SRVS or SPVS before submitting their details to the PPA.

Note: Three (S)PVSs should be in attendance at all meetings unless there is a reasonable expectation of less than 30 runners, in which case, with the agreement of the SPVS, two (S)PVSs may be used. Whilst it is sensible for the third (S)PVS to be fully trauma trained, this is not mandatory unless required at a specific course in the opinion of the SPVS.

- (ii) (S)PVSs must:
- Be members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons with current, valid professional indemnity insurance;
 - Have a clinical involvement which includes a significant amount of regular treatment of horses.
 - Have been qualified for at least five years with a broad experience of equine practice;
 - (A minimum of two) Have attended an approved ARVS Casualty Management Seminar (CMS) within the last 5 years.
 - Be physically and mentally capable of carrying out all the duties required of a (S)PVS on a Point-to-Point course.

Information regarding Casualty Management Seminars (CMS) are available on the Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons Website (www.arvs.org.uk). The BHA Equine Science and Welfare Department can be contacted on 0207 152 0090.

- (iii) The SPVS is to ensure a minimum level of equipment is available to deal with casualties, which should include:
- Adequate materials for Robert Jones dressings
 - Gutter and/or commercial splints
 - Materials for chemical euthanasia
 - Intravenous fluids
 - Newmarket Compression Boot (if available in the region) Raceday

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- (iv) Before racing commences the following must be present and procedures in place to check their attendance:
- Three (3) (S)PVSs, each provided with a radio handset.
 - A recovery vehicle with screens and specified experienced driver, who should remain in the vehicle throughout racing. The recovery vehicle must have high sides with either a fixed or temporary roof, working winch and a tarpaulin.
 - A separate 4x4 towing vehicle suitable for the ground conditions.
 - A horse ambulance with screens, water and experienced driver, who should remain in the vehicle throughout racing. The vehicle must have a front ramp to allow the horse to be unloaded in a forward direction. A separate vehicle and driver must be provided for the recovery vehicle and the horse ambulance.
 - A Rapid Response Vehicle with screens and water Clerks of the Course have been advised that they must provide abundant supplies of cool fresh water and buckets adjacent to the Parade Ring, unsaddling enclosures, between the pull up and unsaddling enclosure (at a site agreed with the SPVS), and at the horse box park. Ideally water should also be available at the last two fences. Static supplies may take the form of ICBs or water butts. Water should also be carried on the horse ambulance and on the Rapid Response Vehicle.
- Screens should ideally be provided at the last two fences, on the Rapid Response vehicle, horse ambulance and recovery vehicle, and at the unsaddling enclosure and Parade Ring;
- (v) Fence Attendants must have the required orange flag which should be used to summon veterinary assistance.
- (vi) It is recommended that the Clerk of the Course, in conjunction with the (S)PVS, ensures that the course allows suitable vehicles (four wheel drive) for veterinary staff to have access throughout, or provide suitable locations to give veterinary coverage for the whole course.
- (vii) Two (S)PVSs must be on the racetrack for each race one, of whom should be at the start. Veterinary arrangements should be such that it is possible to deal efficiently with two separate incidents in the same race.
- (viii) The (S)PVSs, horse ambulance, recovery vehicles and Rapid Response Vehicle must be deployed to ensure an immediate response to equine casualties. The SPVS should be aware of where the nearest veterinary referral centre is in relation to the Meeting.
- (ix) (S)PVSs must alert the Stewards if;
- they consider that a rider has failed to pull up, or delayed pulling up, a horse that in their opinion was very tired or lame;
 - they notice after the race that the use of the whip has produced a weal or drawn blood, or that the horse has been marked in the wrong place.
- (x) A (S)PVS must be available in the Parade Ring prior to each race.
- (xi) The SPVS must not leave the course until all horses in the last race have been accounted for, and the permission of the Clerk of the Course for withdrawal of veterinary services has been obtained.
- (xii) (S)PVSs should wear a distinctive jacket/armband during racing.

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- (xiii) Calls for veterinary assistance should not be made over the open PA system. (S)PVSs should be issued with radios with which they can communicate with each other and with the Clerk of the Course.
- (xiv) A (S)PVS must complete a VO19 and provide to connections on any occasion that a horse receives medical treatment. **The (S)PVS must contact the home vet or referral centre in the case of serious and/or long-term injuries that are likely to require ongoing care.**
- (xv) At the end of the Meeting the SPVS must complete the online 'Fixture Veterinary Report', using the link provided by the BHA and available within Appendix (9)A 'Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS) Responsibilities'.

VETERINARY ARRANGEMENTS - DESTRUCTION OF HORSES

- 9.3 At least two suitable screens should be used behind which it will be possible for a (S)PVS to destroy an injured horse out of sight of the public. At least one screen should be carried as part of the equipment of the recovery vehicle and one on the Rapid Response Vehicle.
- Screens should be kept up until the horse is loaded into the recovery vehicle and covered, but it should be made clear that absence of the screen must in no case hold up the humane despatch of an injured horse. Service/recovery vehicles can be parked in such a way as to maximise the screening of horses. The method of euthanasia must be left to the attending (S)PVS taking into account the welfare of the horse and the safety of assistants and/or onlookers e.g. in the home straight. **If a fire arm is to be used it must be with a sound moderated weapon and not used in any area close to the public.**

VETERINARY ARRANGEMENTS – DISPOSAL

- 9.4 The Organising Committee must have a designated area for the placement of dead horses during the day, which is both secure and out of public view. All dead horses must be covered so that aerial photos cannot be taken. The recovery vehicle should not keep dead horses on board following an incident or try to drag a second horse onto the first at the site of the incident. **No race should be started until the recovery vehicle is empty and back in position.**

Organisers must have a policy regarding 'elective euthanasia' to avoid unnecessary debate and ill feeling. (S)PVS should be made aware of this policy. It is strongly recommended that Organising Committees cover all veterinary costs involved when on-course humane euthanasia occurs

APPENDIX (9)A - SENIOR POINT-TO-POINT VETERINARY SURGEON (SPVS) RESPONSIBILITIES

Personal

1. The Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS):
 - a. must hold current ARVS CMS accreditation

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- b. is expected to have racecourse experience or extensive Point-to-Point experience. In addition, it is now a requirement that they hold current SRVS status or have completed SPVS online training within the last 3 years.
- c. must be appointed at least 2 months in advance of the fixture date
- d. must be fully conversant with the relevant Point -to-Point Instructions and have read and understood the section 'Senior Point-To-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS) Responsibilities' contained within the Instructions
- e. must have access to the contact details for the:
 - i. Clerk of the Course
 - ii. Horse Ambulance Provider
 - iii. Recovery Vehicle Driver
 - iv. Senior Medical Officer (SRMO)

Pre-Fixture

2. Vet Team: The SPVS must ensure that the veterinary team for the fixture is suitably qualified and equipped as per the Instructions. A team of 3 veterinary surgeons is strongly recommended at all fixtures but at the discretion of the SPVS this may be reduced to 2 if the predicted number of runners is less than 30. This may not be possible on some courses due to the layout and access. A race must not commence if only one (S)PVS is available to attend casualties on the racetrack.

3. Horse Ambulance and Recovery Wagon: In advance of the fixture the SPVS should contact the horse ambulance provider and recovery vehicle driver to ensure that the vehicles are fit for purpose and meet the requirements of the Instructions. It should also be ascertained that the designated drivers have relevant horse handling experience.

4. Clerk of Course: The SPVS must contact the Clerk of the Course in advance to discuss the following:

- a. Time of Briefing
- b. Screen availability and deployment
- c. Water availability
- d. Rapid Response Vehicle (Incident Controller plus others)
- e. Hot Weather Protocol (if considered relevant by SPVS)
- f. Driver and vehicle provision if necessary
- g. Stop Race Protocol

5. SRMO: SPVS must contact the SRMO in advance of the meeting to discuss the briefing of medical staff with respect to the Recumbent Horse, Danger Zones and Trapped Jockey scenario. This may be conducted at the Clerk of the Course briefing but alternatively it can be organised as a separate briefing between the Medical and Veterinary staff.

Before Racing on the Day

6. Timing: The SPVS must attend the Clerk of the Course briefing. They should ensure the veterinary team arrive at least 1 hour in advance of the first race and that all attend the Clerk of the Course briefing. The SPVS will participate in the briefing, offering clear instruction to volunteers and others as to ensuring their own personal safety around injured and/or recumbent horses. This will include a demonstration of the 'Danger Zone' around recumbent horses. They will highlight the importance of screening and screen positioning while staying safe.

7. Pre-Race Checks: The SPVS should check that all the necessary veterinary services are in place and compliant with the Instructions. Screens must be available at the last two fences, in the Paddock, unsaddling area and where horses enter and leave the course. They should also be

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available on the Rapid Response Vehicle, horse ambulance and Recovery Vehicle. The SPVS should also ensure that water is available at sites as per the Instructions.

8. Communications: The SPVS should ensure that all team members have a radio and ideally are on a dedicated channel to allow effective, uninterrupted communication. All team members should be made aware of the relevant channels required to contact the Clerk of the Course and the Senior Steward should that be necessary. A radio check of all team members should be conducted well in advance of the first race. The SPVS should ensure that the Clerk of the Course and the Senior Steward are both contactable.

9. Deployment: The SPVS must brief the veterinary team on the course layout, access points, bypass directions and the Stop Race Protocol. One (S)PVS must attend the Start of each race. The team should be deployed in such a way as to ensure prompt attendance to all casualties within one minute. Plans for redeployment should be discussed should a team member be required to attend a casualty.

Senior Steward (Chair)

10. The SPVS should make contact with the Senior Steward and confirm that all the Veterinary services are in place and compliant with the Instructions. If a Hot Weather Protocol is in place the Senior Steward should be made aware and a request made to brief all jockeys that they should dismount post-race at the request of a (S)PVS to ensure that horses can be cooled as required.

11. The Senior Steward should be contacted by the SPVS in the event that anyone behaves inappropriately towards a member of the veterinary team or refuses to act as directed by a (S)PVS on matters of horse welfare.

12. The SPVS (or any (S)PVS with relevant experience) should be available to the Stewards as required to offer an opinion on matters of riding extremely tired or injured horses, evidence of excessive use of the whip or any other matters related to horse welfare.

Equine Injury

13. The SPVS should ensure that all members of the veterinary team are adequately supported as soon as possible in the event of a serious casualty. If a second opinion is required, this should invariably fall to the SPVS. It is recommended that connections are fully briefed by the SPVS regarding diagnosis, prognosis and ongoing treatment. (Where possible all cases of humane destruction should receive a second opinion from another (S)PVS but not at the risk of compromising horse welfare.)

14. The SPVS must always be involved in decision making regarding 'fitness to travel'.

15. If connections are resistant to veterinary assistance and display a disregard for a horse's welfare it is strongly recommended that the SPVS reminds them of their responsibilities. In extreme cases the SPVS may decide to report the matter to the Senior Steward.

16. In the event of a fatality, the SPVS must ensure that the Point-to-Point Secretary is aware of the horse's name and the owner/keeper's details. It is strongly recommended that the costs of humane euthanasia are covered by the Organisers.

17. Costs related to elective euthanasia are best explained to connections by the SPVS.

18. Treatment forms (VO19 available on the PPA website) must be provided to the connections of all horses receiving medical care.

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19. The SPVS must ensure that prompt contact is made with the home veterinary surgeon in situations where a horse has sustained a serious and/or long-term injury in order to establish continuity of care. A copy of the VO19 should also be sent to the home veterinary surgeon without delay.

20. In cases where it is agreed to send a casualty to a referral hospital the SPVS should ensure that the owner/keeper has appropriate directions, and that contact has been made with the referral centre in advance to discuss the casualty. A copy of the VO19 should be sent to the referral centre in advance.

21. The SPVS should make a follow up phone call in the case of horses which sustain serious and/or long-term injuries and return home or are sent to a referral centre. If a horse is subsequently euthanased having been reassessed after leaving the course, it would be appreciated if this information could be included in the Fixture Veterinary Report Form.

Post Fixture Debriefing

22. At the end of the meeting, it is recommended that the SPVS conducts a short debrief with all members of the veterinary team to ensure that all significant injuries have been recorded, that all major incidents at the meeting are reviewed and critiqued and to discuss whether any changes need to be made to the provision of veterinary services in the future. Feedback to the Clerk of the Course is always appreciated and ensures that changes are made at future meetings to ensure ongoing improvements in the provision of efficient veterinary services.

Fixture Veterinary Report Form

23. The BHA requires that the SPVS completes the online Fixture Veterinary Report and returns it within a few days of the meeting. The report is in digital form and can be found here: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/pointtopointinjuryreportform>