

# RACECOURSE EXECUTIVES' SENIORITY AND PITCH RULES

(Revised Version effective from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016)

*These Rules represent the conditions upon which individual bookmakers are entitled to carry on the business of bookmaking at a particular pitch on any authorised racecourse, excluding point-to-points, together with details of how such pitches are to be allocated to or transferred between bookmakers.*

## 1. DEFINITIONS

“**Agent**” means where Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) has been appointed as the agent for a Racecourse Executive for the purposes of implementing these rules, then any Authorised Officer of HRI shall be entitled to operate on behalf of HRI in that capacity.

"**AIR**" means the Association of Irish Racecourses.

“**Appeal Committee**” means a committee established under Section 56 of the Irish Horseracing Industry Act, 1994.

"**HRI**" means Horse Racing Ireland established by the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act, 2001.

“**Betting Office**” means any premises at an authorised racecourse, designated as such by the Racecourse Executive in which betting is permitted by regulation under Section 53 of the Irish Horseracing Industry Act, 1994. Prior to deciding the location of the Betting Office or introducing any changes to the location, size or shape of the Betting Office, the Racecourse Executive shall consult with the INPBA and HRI. Although the Betting Office may take single bets on the home event it will not acquire seniority rights on the racecourse. The charge to the Betting Office operator shall be agreed between the operator and the racecourse executive.

“**Additional Betting Office**” means an additional Betting Office at an authorised racecourse that already has a Betting Office. Where an Additional Betting Office is to be installed the racecourse executive shall provide facilities for ring bookmakers to bet in the vicinity of that Additional Betting Office.

“**Additional Pitch**” means an additional Pitch allocated to a particular bookmaker by a racecourse executive in accordance with an additional seniority held on that particular racecourse. A bookmaker shall not mix or switch seniorities between different pitches. All seniorities held on a particular racecourse by one bookmaker shall be designated A, B, C, etc in order of the date of such seniorities.

**“Betting Ring”** designated as such by the Racecourse Executive where authorised bookmakers are permitted to accept bets. Prior to deciding the location of the Betting Ring or introducing any changes to the location, size or shape of the Betting Ring, the Racecourse Executive shall consult with the INPBA and HRI.

**"Bookmaker"** means a licensed bookmaker who is the holder of a Course Betting Permit from HRI.

**“Corporate Area”** means a location on an authorised racecourse with restricted access, not available to the general public, for entertaining correctly accredited individuals.

**"Executive"** in relation to a racecourse means the person who owns or exercises control over that racecourse.

**"INPBA"** means the Irish National Professional Bookmakers' Association.

**“Overflow Line”** means a number of pitches designated as such by a Racecourse Executive that are allocated on any racecourse when the betting ring is full. Such lines must be filled starting from the end closest to the main Betting Ring.

**“Pitch”** is a specific area within the Betting Ring or the Subsidiary Betting Ring allotted to a particular bookmaker by a Racecourse Executive according to a Seniority held by that bookmaker.

**“Premium Area”** means an area of the racecourse that is open to the general public, has been designated as a betting area by HRI and where the racecourse executive wishes to provide facilities from which ring bookmakers can operate.

**“Private Suite(s)”** means a location on an authorised racecourse not open to the general public and rented by an Authorised Bookmaker, for entertaining and providing betting facilities to their correctly accredited guests.

**"Racecourse"** means a racecourse including the precincts thereof authorised by HRI under Section 59 of the Irish Horseracing Industry Act, 1994 but excluding point-to-point courses.

**“Seniority”** means a right of priority that a bookmaker acquires at an authorised racecourse which is represented by a date, as evidenced in the records of HRI, the chronological order of which shall determine relative priority rights as between bookmakers in relation to:

- the right to occupy a particular pitch or a position on the waiting list,
- the right to move on a temporary basis to another pitch, and
- the order of allocation of pitches in the event of a redraw.

The date referred to above shall be the date the Bookmaker first operates in the Betting Ring, or, if earlier, the date of a seniority acquired from another bookmaker in accordance with these rules and subject to the provision that, where bookmakers have similar seniority, their respective seniority for the purposes of the application of these rules shall be by lot.

Where lots are used to determine the respective seniority between bookmakers in a particular circumstance, such determination by lot shall not affect the seniority of such bookmakers, as

and between themselves, on any subsequent occasion when their relative seniority may be of relevance.

**“Single bets on the home event”** means a bet placed with an authorised bookmaker on an authorised racecourse on a single event taking place at that racecourse. An authorised bookmaker wishing to take single bets on the home event must do so through a pitch located on that racecourse whether directly or through a slave operator or within the confines of a Betting Office.

**“Slave operator(s)”** is an Authorised Bookmaker or his Representative, who operates in an area on an authorised racecourse outside the Betting Ring or subsidiary betting ring where there is restricted access to the general public (e.g. Corporate Areas or Private Suites) but is linked to that bookmaker’s pitch on that racecourse via telecommunications or other appropriate means with the ability to feed back all bets struck to the Betting Ring or subsidiary betting ring. A slave operator must offer the same price and conditions as are on offer at that Bookmaker’s pitch. The slave operator must have the ability to provide HRI with a separate return of bets placed through that facility.

**“Subsidiary Betting Ring”** means an area other than the Betting Ring designated as such by the Racecourse Executive where authorised bookmakers are permitted to accept bets. Prior to deciding the location of a Subsidiary Betting Ring, the Racecourse Executive shall consult with the INPBA and HRI.

**"Waiting list"** means a list of bookmakers in order of seniority who have registered with HRI on behalf of the Racecourse Executive, in order to fill vacancies in the Betting Ring as they arise on the day.

## **2. PITCHES**

(a) The Executive of any racecourse has control over the area in which bookmakers' pitches are located and has the right to designate any particular area for use as a Betting Ring and to plan, align and allot the pitches of bookmakers. In such matters the Executive will, however, consult with HRI and the INPBA. If these consultations do not result in agreement the matter in dispute shall be decided by the Pitch Tribunal (See Rule 21). The plan and alignment of pitches shall be those currently in existence.

(b) The Executive shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, in respect of each authorised racecourse, a plan or map (hereinafter referred to as the "ring plan") of the alignment for the time being of all pitches within the ring (or rings) at such racecourse and shall denominate each pitch in such ring (or rings) by letters and/or numbers so as to identify each individual pitch.

(c) No alteration in the plan or alignment of a ring shall take place without the consultation and approval referred to above.

## **3. ALLOCATION OF PITCHES**

(a) The Executive shall maintain, or cause to be maintained by its agent, a list (hereinafter referred to as "the pitch list") of all pitches allocated to bookmakers in respect of each ring by

reference to the letters and numbers appearing on the ring plan in respect of each respective ring.

(b) The pitch list in respect of each ring has been determined on the basis of the pitches allocated to each bookmaker.

(c) The Executive shall publish and make available, or cause to be published and made available by its agent, to any interested party the ring plan and the pitch list in respect of each ring. Any person who disputes the accuracy of either the ring plan or the pitch list may refer such dispute to the Pitch Tribunal whose decision shall be binding and final on all parties concerned.

(d) Where a vacancy on the pitch list occurs this shall be filled by seniority.

(e) Where the bookmaker is the holder of two or more seniorities on a particular racecourse, the allocation of pitches must take place strictly in accordance with the records kept by HRI. A bookmaker shall not switch or mix seniorities between different pitches. The A seniority must remain with the A pitch, the B seniority with the B pitch and so on.

#### **4. CHANGE TO THE ALLOCATION OF PITCHES**

(a) The pitch list shall be conclusive as to the allotment for the time being of a particular pitch to a bookmaker. The allocation of a pitch to a bookmaker (including a deceased bookmaker where Rule 6 applies) may only be altered in one of the following fashions:

- where a bookmaker has his pitch declared vacant in accordance with the provisions of these rules; or
- where a person succeeds to a pitch under the provisions of these rules; or
- where a sale of a bookmaker's seniority occurs in accordance with the provisions of these rules; or
- where there has been a change in the pitches within a ring within the meaning of Rule 13 affecting the pitch allocated to a particular bookmaker.

(b) Where an alteration of a pitch or pitches occurs under one or other of the aforementioned circumstances (but in no other case) the Executive shall alter, or cause to be altered, the name of the bookmaker to whom a particular pitch has been allocated in the appropriate pitch list.

#### **5. VACANCY OF A PITCH**

(a) Where a bookmaker's permit has been revoked by HRI, and either HRI's decision is not appealed by the bookmaker concerned within the time limits for the time being in force, or where an appeal is brought and the Appeal Committee confirms the revocation of such permit the bookmaker shall have six months from the date of revocation of such permit to dispose of any seniority rights that he holds. When this six month period has elapsed the bookmaker concerned shall lose all seniority rights on all racecourses and all of his pitches shall be deemed vacant for the purposes of this rule.

(b) A pitch may also become vacant under the provisions of Rule 6 (b) below.

(c) A bookmaker may declare his pitch to be vacant by giving written notification to HRI as agents for the AIR of the date from which the bookmaker wishes the declaration to apply.

(d) Where a bookmaker has not renewed his/her permit, the bookmaker shall have up to two years from the date of expiry of his permit to dispose of any seniority rights that he holds. No pitch charges will be levied during this period. When this period has elapsed the bookmaker concerned shall lose all seniority rights on all racecourses and all of his pitches shall be deemed vacant for the purposes of this rule. In the event that any bookmaker is dissatisfied with such a declaration concerning the vacancy of his pitch the matter shall be referred to the Pitch Tribunal whose decision on the matter shall be final and accepted by all parties.

(e) A racecourse executive may declare a pitch vacant on a temporary basis for a particular day where the bookmaker who is entitled to occupy that particular pitch has advised that he will not be in attendance on that day or is not in attendance on that day by the off of the fourth race or who cannot operate on that day because they do not hold a valid permit.

(f) Where a bookmaker who holds a seniority on a racecourse acts as a representative for another bookmaker on that racecourse on any day then the pitch of the first bookmaker shall be deemed to be vacant for that day.

(g) Where a pitch is deemed vacant the pitch shall be offered to the bookmaker holding the next highest seniority or on proximity depending on the agreed move plan between HRI and INPBA for that racecourse. A copy of all move plans is available from HRI. Should that bookmaker not wish to move to the vacant pitch, the pitch shall be offered to the next subsequent highest seniority or the next nearest in proximity and so on until the vacancy has been filled. The pitch held by a bookmaker to whom a vacated pitch is allocated in accordance with the provisions of these rules shall itself be deemed to be vacant and shall be reallocated in the same manner as provided for in this rule.

(h) In the event of any dispute as to which bookmaker is entitled to occupy any pitch on any particular day the decision of the Executive or his agent shall be final on the day. A bookmaker who takes issue with any such decision may refer the matter to the Pitch Tribunal for investigation whose decision on the matter shall be final and binding on all parties.

(i) Where an Overflow Line is in operation and there are vacant pitches in the Main Betting Ring, they must be filled on seniority from the Overflow Line. If the number of bookmakers to be accommodated is less than the number of vacant pitches in the main betting ring, they must all take pitches in the main Betting Ring in order of seniority. If the number of Bookmakers to be accommodated is greater than the number of vacancies, the main ring, together with the remaining pitches on the overflow line, must be filled on seniority.

## **6. DEATH OF A BOOKMAKER**

(a) The name of a deceased bookmaker shall remain upon any relevant pitch list until such pitch shall either become vacant under these rules or a reallocation shall have occurred.

(b) In the event of the death of any bookmaker, all of his pitches shall be deemed vacant on the expiry of 24 months from the date of death unless his personal representatives have, in the

meantime, transferred, sold or otherwise disposed of his seniority at any relevant racecourses in accordance with these rules.

(c) In the event of a pitch being deemed vacant in accordance with the provisions of this rule, it shall be allocated in the same manner as if it had been deemed vacant under Rule 5 hereof.

(d) any person succeeding to a pitch, under the provisions of this rule, shall be regarded thence forth as having the same seniority as the bookmaker to whose pitch he has succeeded.

## **7. SALE OF SENIORITY**

(a) A bookmaker may only sell his seniority at any authorised racecourse to a person who holds a Course Betting Permit from HRI.

A sale of seniority under the provisions of this rule shall not be deemed to have taken effect until:

(i) A Transfer of Seniority form (as supplied by HRI) has been completed by both the vendor and the purchaser and returned to HRI as agents for the Executive.

(ii) Written confirmation has been received by the Executive or his agent from the vendor that all payments legally due to staff members have been made; and

(iii) All amounts due to HRI have been paid in full

(b) HRI provides a service to bookmakers whereby a seniority may be advertised for sale in the list of seniorities for sale maintained by HRI as agent for the racecourses. This list of seniorities for sale will be updated weekly and be made available on the HRI website [www.goracing.ie](http://www.goracing.ie) as well as being circulated to bookmakers monthly with their statements. In order for a seniority to appear on this list, details of pitches for sale must be notified to HRI in writing.

(c) Upon the completion of the sale within the meaning of this rule, the name of the purchaser shall be substituted for the name of the vendor in the pitch list maintained by the Executive or its agent in respect of any relevant racecourse. Furthermore, the vendor shall relinquish his seniority on such racecourse and the purchaser shall assume the seniority previously enjoyed by the vendor.

(d) Where a bookmaker already has an existing seniority at a racecourse and acquires a second or subsequent one, the seniorities cannot be swapped. Each seniority is independent of any other seniority held by that bookmaker.

## **8. REGISTRATION FEES**

A registration fee shall be paid to the Executive of a racecourse, and will be collected by HRI as their agent, in respect of the transfer of any seniority on such racecourse. Such registration fee shall be payable by the purchaser or transferee of such seniority. The amount of this fee may be varied from time to time by agreement between the AIR and the INBA but from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2016, shall be fixed as follows:

(a) The registration fees for each racecourse are calculated at a rate of €345 per fixture originally scheduled by HRI for any calendar year. See the HRI website for the registration fees due in respect of each racecourse based on the current fixture list.

(b) If the “normal” registration fee as calculated above is greater than 25% of the value of the seniority (as agreed between AIR, HRI and INPBA) then the fee may be discounted to a fee equivalent to 25% of the said value in each case subject to a minimum registration fee in all cases of €250.

(c) No discount of the registration fee will be provided where the selling bookmaker advises HRI that the sale is some form of a conditional sale/lease or similar of a seniority.

(d) In the event of any dispute in relation to either the amount of the discount or the value of the seniority the matter may be referred to the Pitch Tribunal for decision.

(e) No transfer of seniority will be recorded by the Executive or its agent until the Transfer of Seniority Form (supplied by HRI) has been completed.

(e) All registration fees must be paid to HRI for onward transmission to the relevant racecourse executive and payments must be made by cheque, bank draft or direct debit.

(f) Bookmakers should allow a maximum of 10 working days for a transfer to take effect.

(h) Where the transferee of a seniority is the spouse, son or daughter of the transferor and the transfer arises as the result of the death of the transferor, then such transfer may be made without payment of a registration fee.

(i) Where the transferee of a seniority is the son or daughter of the transferor and the transfer arises as the result of the retirement of the transferor, then such transfer may be made without payment of a registration fee.

## **9. INTRODUCTION FEES**

(a) A bookmaker who intends to bet at a racecourse for the first time must register a new seniority with HRI. The bookmaker will pay to HRI on behalf of the executive of that racecourse an Introduction Fee equivalent to 10% of the Registration Fee applicable to that racecourse at that time.

(b) Once a bookmaker registers a new seniority at a racecourse he must maintain the seniority (or sell or transfer it) for a period of one year and pay all relevant charges.

## **10. PITCH FEES**

(a) A bookmaker must pay to HRI, on behalf of the Executive, in respect of all racecourses on which he has been allocated a pitch, a daily pitch fee equal to five times the charge then made to a member of the public for admission to that part of those racecourses where the pitches are situated for all meetings held at those racecourses. This pitch fee will apply to every seniority held by a bookmaker on any racecourse.

(b) Bookmakers on a waiting list at any racecourses where no pitches are available for allocation must pay half the daily pitch fee for that racecourse to HRI, on behalf of the Executive, subject to Rule 9 (b) above.

(c) Bookmakers on a waiting list at any racecourses where there are pitches available for allocation must pay the full daily pitch fees calculated in accordance with Rule 10(a) above. e.g. if there are three pitches available, then the first three bookmakers on the waiting list must pay the full daily pitch charge, even if they have opted not to accept the offer.

(d) Bookmakers who hold pitches on an overflow line at any racecourse must pay to the Executive the daily pitch fees applicable to the racecourses concerned but only in respect of the days on which the overflow lines are in operation. For all other days they revert to a waiting list and pay the appropriate charges.

(e) Where a subsidiary betting ring is in operation for some but not all fixtures at a given racecourse, the bookmaker must pay the daily pitch fees applicable to the racecourses concerned but only in respect of the days on which the subsidiary betting ring is in operation. For all other days they revert to a waiting list and pay the appropriate charges.

(f) Should additional fixtures be scheduled all bookmakers holding seniority at these racecourses will be charged for these as they arise, based on the charge to the general public for admission on those days. Where original fixtures are rescheduled, only bookmakers who attend the fixture will be charged the applicable daily pitch fees.

The pitch fees will be charged to the bookmaker by HRI one month in arrears, on behalf of the Executive, on the basis of fixtures held.

Bookmakers who have seniority at a fixture which clashes with another fixture in the Republic of Ireland will be billed for both meetings if they have a representative permit. If they do not hold a representative permit they will only be charged for the meeting they attend. If a bookmaker, who does not have a representative, does not attend either fixture, he will be charged the highest pitch fee applicable on that day.

Anomalies in charges will be dealt with at the end of the year by agreement between AIR and the INPBA.

(g) Should the bookmaker fail to meet the payment in any month he will be notified in writing by HRI, on behalf of the Executive, of his failure to pay and will be given five working days from the date of the letter to pay the amount of the outstanding direct debit.

If the Bookmaker fails to meet this payment, he may be reported to the Bookmakers Committee of Horse Racing Ireland who may consider suspension or revocation of his Course Betting Permit.

(h) With reference to Rule 7, 50% relief will be given on pitch fees accruing where a seniority is for sale under the following conditions:

(i) In order to qualify for relief whilst a seniority is for sale, the bookmaker must notify HRI in writing that the seniority is for sale and it must be placed on the seniorities for



sale list maintained by HRI. Without this formal notification and advertisement, no relief will be extended.

- (ii) The Seniority cannot be operated by the bookmaker wishing to claim relief whilst it is for sale.
- (iii) If the bookmaker, after putting the seniority up for sale as above wishes to subsequently operate the seniority any stage, all previous relief granted in the preceding 12 months is revoked and must be repaid by the bookmaker.

## **11- RETIREMENT OF A BOOKMAKER**

Where there is a Waiting List in operation on the day of notification of retirement, no pitch charges will be levied for a maximum period of 2 years (3 years where there is no Waiting List in operation) following notification of retirement by a bookmaker to HRI subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The bookmaker must hand his permit back to HRI together with written confirmation of his retirement as an authorised bookmaker.
- (b) To claim this relief the bookmaker must have all seniorities registered in his name for sale and they must be advertised on the official HRI list
- (c) After 2 years (or 3 years, as the case may be) from the date of notification of retirement, all seniorities, if not sold/transferred, shall be declared vacant.
- (d) Should the bookmaker wish to extend the offer for sale past 2 years(or 3 years, as the case may be), he must pay the pitch fees accruing on all seniorities for the previous 12 months before availing of this rollover relief for a further year.

## **12. OCCUPATION OF PITCHES**

(a) The rights attaching to the occupation of a pitch allotted to a bookmaker shall be personal to that bookmaker and shall not be exercised by a partner or any other person whatsoever.

(b) A representative of a bookmaker holding a representative permit from HRI in accordance with regulations for the time being in force shall, however, be entitled to occupy a pitch allocated to such a bookmaker on any occasion where such representative is entitled to carry on the business of the bookmaker within any particular ring subject always to these Rules.

(c) In the ordinary course of events, each bookmaker shall be entitled, at any race meeting, to occupy a pitch that has been allocated to him in accordance with the provisions of these Rules. In the case of a bookmaker operating an additional pitch or pitches, each pitch must be operated by a person holding an HRI permit or Representative Permit.

(d) A bookmaker registered with a seniority position within the designated number in each betting ring for each meeting, not proposing to attend that meeting either in person or represented by a representative, must inform the Authorised Officer of HRI at least one hour before the advertised time of the first race at that meeting at which he is the holder of seniority.

(e) Call out times will be 50 minutes for all race meetings except for those listed below which will have a call out time of 90 minutes.

Punchestown Festival  
Galway Festival  
Fairhouse Grand National Day  
Curragh Derby Day and Champions weekend  
Listowel Festival

Any bookmaker shall be entitled, on a temporary basis and in order of seniority, to occupy a pitch of an absent bookmaker as notified to HRI above, leaving his allocated pitch (should he have one) available to be occupied on a similar temporary basis by another bookmaker.

(f) Where a bookmaker to whom a pitch has been allocated arrives later than half an hour before the advertised time of the first race, he shall subject to Rule 5(e), be entitled to occupy his allotted pitch and any temporary allocations caused by his earlier absence shall be reversed. However, such bookmaker shall not be entitled to the benefit of any temporary transfer by which he might otherwise have been entitled to move to another pitch. Any bookmaker arriving after the start of the fourth race at any race meeting shall not be entitled to occupy any pitch on that day. Any bookmaker not having a allocated pitch, who is not present half an hour before the advertised time of the first race, shall not, for the purposes of that day only, be regarded as having a higher degree of seniority than any bookmaker who is present half an hour before the advertised time of the first race.

(g) No bookmaker shall be entitled to move to any other pitch after the start of the fourth race at any race meeting.

### **13. CHANGE OF PITCH**

(a) A "change of pitch" shall be deemed to occur:

- (i) Where there is after consultation between the AIR, INPBA and HRI an alteration in the plan or alignment of the pitches upon a particular racecourse, or
- (ii) Where there has been a significant alteration in the arrangement of the enclosures and buildings (including the parade ring) at the racecourse generally such that there has been a significant alteration in the attractiveness of the pitches occupied by various bookmakers notwithstanding the fact that there has been no physical alteration in the location or alignment thereof.

(b) Where a change of pitch has occurred in respect of all of the pitches within a ring, then a re-allocation of all such pitches shall occur in accordance with the terms of the re-allocation rules provided for in Rule 13(d) hereunder.

(c) Where there is any doubt or dispute raised by any party affected or potentially affected by the determination of whether there has been a change of pitch then such questions as may be raised by any interested party shall be referred to the Pitch Tribunal whose decision shall be final and binding upon all parties

(d) Where a re-allocation is to occur all of the pitches shall be re-allocated in the following manner:

- (i) Each of the bookmakers to whom a pitch is allotted immediately before the re-allocation shall be placed upon a list in the order of their seniority. In the event of two or more bookmakers having equivalent seniority their order upon the list shall be determined by lot.
  - (ii) The Executive shall prepare or cause to be prepared a ring plan incorporating such alterations in the plan or alignment of the pitches in the ring concerned.
  - (iii) Each bookmaker concerned, in the order of seniority, as determined by Rule 13(d)(i), shall have a choice of the pitches available for allocation in accordance with Rule 13(d)(ii) hereof.
- (e) Where a bookmaker has died and where his personal representative has not exercised his right under the provisions of Rule 6 to transfer, sell or otherwise dispose of the seniority of the deceased bookmaker in respect of the ring in which such pitch is situated and where a period of twelve months from the date of death of the said bookmaker has not elapsed then the personal representative of such bookmaker may take part in the re-allocation of the pitches in accordance with this rule as if he were the deceased bookmaker.
- (f) Where the personal representative of a deceased bookmaker has taken part in a re-allocation under the provisions of this rule his right to transfer, sell or otherwise dispose of the seniority shall relate to the pitch allotted under such allocation.
- (g) The Executive of the racecourse, or its agent, in which the relevant ring is situated may make such arrangements for giving effect to this rule as may be required and in particular (and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) may make arrangements as to the time limit within which any bookmaker concerned (including the personal representative of a deceased bookmaker) shall exercise his right to choose in priority his pitch. Such arrangements may further provide that, in the event of a bookmaker failing to exercise his right of choice within such time limit, he may be allocated such pitch as may remain after each other bookmaker concerned has exercised his right of choice.

#### **14. SENIORITY**

- (a) Where bookmakers have similar seniority their respective seniority for the purposes of the application of these Rules shall be determined by lot.
- (b) Where lots are used to determine the respective seniority between such bookmakers in a particular circumstance, such determination by lot shall not affect the seniority of such bookmakers, as and between themselves, on any subsequent occasion when their relative seniority may be of relevance.

#### **15. BETTING OFFICES**

- (a) The Executive of any racecourse may allocate any such Betting Office(s) to any authorised bookmaker(s) as it sees fit. It is further agreed that the Racecourse Executive may charge a fee or enter into any commercial arrangement with the authorised bookmaker in respect of the rental of the Betting Office(s) as the Racecourse Executive sees fit.

(b) The holding of seniority on an Authorised Racecourse shall not prevent a bookmaker from operating from a Betting Shop at that racecourse. In such circumstances the authorised bookmaker may use the same trading name in both locations.

(c) A Betting Office(s) will not provide its operators with seniority rights on a racecourse.

## **16. PRIVATE SUITES**

(a) An Authorised Bookmaker may rent from the Racecourse Executive a Private Suite in which to entertain invited guests/clients and provide them with betting services via a slave operator provided that such bookmaker is operating at a pitch on that racecourse on all days when the Private Suite is in operation.

(b) The Executive of any racecourse may allocate such a location(s) to any Authorised Bookmaker(s) provided it has secured the appropriate authorisation from HRI. It is further agreed that the Racecourse Executive may enter into any other such commercial arrangement in respect of the rental of the Private Suite(s) as the Racecourse Executive sees fit.

(c) The Authorised Bookmaker or his representative must be present in the Private Suite at all times when betting services are being made available to the clients of the bookmaker.

(d) A maximum occupancy limit may be applied by the racecourse to any private suite location. The bookmaker occupying such a facility should take appropriate measures to ensure that only correctly accredited guests gain access to the location.

## **17. CORPORATE AREAS**

(a) The Racecourse Executive may rent to an authorised bookmaker a designated space in a Corporate Area, provided it has secured the appropriate authorisation from HRI, from which the authorised bookmaker may supply bookmaking services to customers located in that area via a slave operator. Consequently, any such bookmaker must be operating at a pitch on that racecourse on all days when the service from the Corporate Area is in operation.

(b) The Racecourse Executive may allocate any such space within the Corporate Area(s) to Authorised Bookmakers with seniority on that racecourse.

(c) Each bookmaker holding seniority at that racecourse will be offered the opportunity to apply for a position. Applicants will be graded according to seniority initially subject to a draw if seniorities are equal. Successful applicants will be drawn for pick of place on a random basis. Each seniority that has used the facility most recently will go to the end of the queue of applications for subsequent draws.

(d) The charge to each bookmaker will be agreed in advance and subject to a formula to be agreed between the AIR and INPBA.

(e) The authorised bookmaker or his representative must be present in the Corporate Area at all times when such betting services are being made available.

## **18. PREMIUM AREAS**

- (a) The racecourse executive may rent a pitch in a premium area to an authorised bookmaker with current seniority on the racecourse provided it has secured the appropriate authorisations from HRI. The daily charge for this pitch shall be five times the charge to the public for admission to that particular area.
- (b) Each bookmaker holding a seniority at that racecourse will be offered the opportunity to apply for a position. Applicants will be graded according to seniority initially subject to a draw if seniorities are equal. Successful applicants will be drawn by pick of place on a random basis. Each seniority that has used the facility most recently will go to the end of the queue of applications for subsequent draws.
- (c) The authorised bookmaker or his representative must be present at the pitch in the premium area at all times when betting services are being made available.
- (d) At least one of the pitches in each Premium Area must be linked back to the betting ring. In order for this to be achieved, priority may be given to a ring bookmaker with the facility to work with the two pitches linked.

## **19. SUBSIDIARY BETTING RING**

(a) A Racecourse Executive, having consulted the INPBA, may designate a Subsidiary Betting Ring, provided it has secured the appropriate authorisation from HRI, in an area of the racecourse open to the general public paying an admission fee. In such cases, the Executive will allocate pitches to Authorised Bookmakers according to seniority on a daily basis. Authorised Bookmakers taking up the offer will relinquish all rights to a pitch in the Betting Ring for that day.

## **20. RELOCATION AND OR REDEVELOPMENT OF RACECOURSES**

In the event of the relocation or redevelopment of a Racecourse, then the seniority that applied previously shall continue to apply at any relocated or redeveloped racecourse.

## **21. PITCH TRIBUNAL**

(a) The Pitch Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman nominated thereto by AIR and the INPBA and two other members nominated by the AIR and the INPBA respectively. The quorum for any meetings of the Tribunal shall be three and each nominating organisation shall be entitled to nominate an alternate in the event of the unavailability of its nominee for any particular meeting.

(b) The Pitch Tribunal shall have the authority to determine any dispute as to the interpretation of these Rules or their application in any circumstances. The determination of the Pitch Tribunal shall be final and binding on all parties concerned. The Pitch Tribunal shall determine its own procedures provided that same shall comply with the principles of natural justice.

(c) The failure of any party to refer a dispute to the Pitch Tribunal within a reasonable time or the failure of a party to comply with the procedures of the Pitch Tribunal shall not prevent the Pitch Tribunal from making a determination in any such dispute.

## **22. AMENDMENT**

These Rules may only be amended by agreement between the AIR and the INPBA and in consultation with HRI.

## **23. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

These Rules are currently in force and may be reviewed at any time at the request of the AIR, the INPBA or HRI.

**Paddy Walsh – Chief Executive**

**David Power - Chairman**

**on behalf of the  
Association of Irish Racecourses**

**on behalf of the  
Irish National Professional Bookmakers  
Association**