

Tattersalls Committee

Rules on Betting

Consultation Responses

17 April 2010

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Tattersalls Committee is a horse racing institution dating back to the 19th century. It was originally formed through the amalgamation of the Committee of Tattersalls Subscription Rooms (established 1795) and the Committee of Newmarket Subscription Rooms (established 1881).
- 1.2 Today, the Committee has two primary functions – firstly, to issue and maintain the Rules on Betting and, secondly, to act as an independent third-party dispute resolution service for betting disputes that emanate from any of the sixty UK racecourses.
- 1.3 In accordance with licence conditions issued by the Gambling Commission pursuant to the Gambling Act 2005, all on-course bookmakers are obliged to adhere to the Rules on Betting unless they display a prominent notice to the contrary.
- 1.4 The implementation of the Gambling Act in 2007 created a need for a review of the Rules on Betting. Consequently, in September 2009, Tattersalls Committee embarked on a 12-week consultation process, proposing a number of changes to the existing Rules on Betting and seeking feedback from stakeholders, industry bodies and members of the public. In total, 40 questions about the proposed new Rules on Betting were posed and twelve responses to the consultation were received (see section 2). We are grateful to all of the respondents for their input.
- 1.5 Subsequently, Tattersalls Committee set up a Rules Panel comprised of people with specialist knowledge of the on-course betting industry and the surrounding legislation (see section 3). The Rules Panel discussed the consultation responses and decided on a revised version of the Rules on Betting, which was subsequently approved by Tattersalls Committee. Tattersalls Committee is grateful to all the members of the Rules Panel for their efforts and commitment.
- 1.6 This paper provides a summary of the consultation responses. It aims to reflect the views offered in general but does not purport to represent each response in detail.
- 1.7 This paper also provides the reaction of the Rules Panel to the input and recommendations of the respondents. We intend this to provide a full understanding of the revisions we have made to the Rules on Betting. The paper should be considered alongside the finalised Rules on Betting, which may also be found on the Tattersalls Committee website.
- 1.8 It is intended that the Rules on Betting will in future be reviewed bi-annually. Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, therefore, the next review will take place in 2012.

2 Respondents

2.1 There were twelve respondents to the consultation, one of which requested confidentiality. The remaining eleven respondents were as follows: -

Name	Category
Andrew Fraser	Individual
Gary Long	Individual
George Moir	On-course bookmaker
John May	On-course bookmaker
Keith Wakefield	On-course bookmaker
Mick Sziler (Betfred)	Off-course bookmaker
National Association of Bookmakers	Trade body
Racecourse Association	Trade body
Rails Bookmakers Association	Trade body
Satellite Information Services	Media business
The Press Association	Media business

2.2 A composite of the consultation responses may be found on the Tattersalls Committee website www.tattersallscommittee.co.uk/consultation

3 Rules Panel

- 3.1 The initial consultation document set out the process and timetable by which the amendments to the Rules on Betting would be decided.
- 3.2 Tattersalls Committee decided that it would be most transparent and effective if an independent Rules Panel was set up to discuss and approve the new Rules on Betting. It was determined that the Rules Panel should consist of seven persons, to include two members of Tattersalls Committee (but not the chairman). It was further decided that non-bookmakers should outnumber bookmakers by a ratio of five to two, although the experience and practical knowledge of the bookmakers was acknowledged to be vital in reaching workable, well-informed decisions.
- 3.3 The consultation document invited respondents to propose appropriate persons to sit on the Rules Panel. Based on factors including industry expertise, specialist knowledge and independence, the following Rules Panel was selected: -

Name	Description
Andrew Bruce	Tattersalls Committee
Andrew Fraser	Individual
Paul Ritchie	SIS
Nigel Roddis	Racing Enterprises Limited
Tanya Stevenson	Journalist and TV presenter
Graham Thorpe	On-course bookmaker
John White	Tattersalls Committee and on-course bookmaker

- 3.4 The members of the Rules Panel gave their time pro bono. Secretarial support was provided by Tim Moore from Administration of Gambling on Tracks Limited.
- 3.5 The Rules Panel discussed, developed and amended the Rules on Betting, then submitted the revised version to Queen's Counsel for a legal health-check. Gerald Gouriet, a QC with extensive experience and knowledge of gambling legislation, was selected for this task. He put forward a number of edits to the Rules on Betting and confirmed that they were in compliance with the law. The finalised Rules on Betting were then approved, unchanged, by Tattersalls Committee after consultation with the Gambling Commission.

4 Consultation responses

4.1 This section will follow the original running order of the Rules on Betting as proposed in the consultation paper. The finalised version of the Rules on Betting has a different running order, which is more logical and sequential.

4.2 Rule 1 – proposal

These Rules on Betting are issued by Tattersalls Committee, as amended from time to time. All on-course bookmakers are obliged to adhere to these Rules unless they display a prominent notice to the contrary. On request and in accordance with the published procedures, Tattersalls Committee may hear any betting disputes arising from the application or interpretation of these Rules.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 1

Do you consider that the original Rule 1 should be deleted?

Question 2

Do you agree with the proposed re-wording of Rule 1?

Question 3

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.3 Respondents' views

Most respondents agreed with the proposal. One respondent suggested that the 'Rule' as drafted was actually more of a preamble than a Rule and proposed that a preamble to the Rules on Betting should be inserted. Two respondents suggested that it would be helpful if the Rules on Betting could include a statement explaining from where the Rules derived their authority.

4.4 Our response

The Rules Panel agreed that the proposed Rule should be diverted into a preamble, along with a statement on the source of the authority for the Rules on Betting. For clarity, the preamble also refers to the status of Tattersalls Committee as an independent betting dispute resolution service and where information on this service may be found.

4.5 Rule 2 – proposal

In all bets, there must be a possibility to win when the bet is placed.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 4

Do you agree with the proposed re-wording of Rule 2?

Question 5

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.6 Respondents' views

Some respondents agreed with the proposal, but others did not. One respondent pointed out that the Rule as framed may contravene the provisions of section 9 of the Gambling Act 2005, which defines 'betting'.

4.7 Our response

The Rules Panel took informal legal advice on this Rule and concluded that any definition of 'betting' must align with the Gambling Act. The Rule was changed to reflect this. This Rule was moved to Rule 1 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

4.8 Rule 3 – proposal

Tattersalls Committee recognises all types of betting, including unorthodox betting (i.e. betting other than conventional win or each-way) and betting on sports/events other than horseracing. The Rules on Betting apply to all bets placed on British racecourses, unless otherwise stated by the bookmaker. Unorthodox bookmakers should take special care to display prominently the terms of unorthodox bets and ensure that they comply with the provisions of Rule 2.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 6

Do you consider that the original Rule 3 should be deleted?

Question 7

Do you agree with the proposed re-wording of Rule 3?

Question 8

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.9 Respondents' views

The majority of respondents considered that this proposed Rule required amendment, for both technical reasons and reasons relating to opaque terminology such as 'unorthodox betting'.

4.10 Our response

The Rules Panel concluded that this Rule could be deleted, as it was unnecessary to define or restrict the types of betting that were recognised by Tattersalls Committee. In effect, the new Rule 1 allows for the Committee to recognise all types of betting.

4.11 Rule 4 – proposal

The consultation document proposed to leave this Rule largely unchanged, with only minor amendments, as follows: -

Other than 'first past the post' bets, all bets will be settled according to the official result as announced at the 'Weigh In' with the following exceptions:

(A) Single Ante-Post bets, being made before 10 a.m. on the day of the final declarations will be void under the following circumstances:

- 1) If the race is abandoned.*
- 2) If the race is declared void.*
- 3) If the "Conditions" of the race entry are changed prior to the start of the race.*
- 4) If the venue is altered.*
- 5) If a horse is eliminated under British Horseracing Authority (BHA) Rule 125.*

However, in any such circumstances accumulative Ante-Post bets (win or place) will stand and be settled at the ante-post price(s) laid on the remaining horse(s). Any race in which a horse is supplemented does not affect Rule 4(A).

In the event of a race being postponed to another day:

Ante-Post bets placed before the entries have closed should stand and only be made void if the race is abandoned or made void, if the horse is balloted out or eliminated under Rule 125 of the BHA's Orders and Rules of Racing or the venue is changed.

Ante-Post bets placed after the entries have closed should be void, except when the race is run at a later date at the same venue and entries for the race are not reopened, in which case bets would stand.

(B) Bets other than Ante-Post bets will be void if the race is abandoned or declared void. If postponed to another day and final declarations stand, then bets stand, and if the final declarations do not stand, bets will be void. Bets on a horse declared by the Starter "not to have started" will be void. Bets on the distance are void if the first or second horse is disqualified, or the placings are reversed.

(C) In the case of bets made at a price on the day of the race before it has been officially notified that a horse has been withdrawn or has been declared "not to have started", the liability of a layer against any horse remaining in the race, win or place, will be reduced in accordance with the following scale depending on the odds current against the withdrawn horse at the time of such official notification:

If the current odds are:

- a) 1/9 or longer odds on by 90p in the £,*
- b) 2/11 to 2/17 by 85p in the £,*

- c) 1/4 to 1/5 by 80p in the £.
- d) 3/10 to 2/7 by 75p in the £.
- e) 2/5 to 1/3 by 70p in the £.
- f) 8/15 to 4/9 by 65p in the £.
- g) 8/13 to 4/7 by 60p in the £.
- h) 4/5 to 4/6 by 55p in the £.
- i) 20/21 to 5/6 by 50p in the £.
- j) Evens to 6/5 by 45p in the £.
- k) 5/4 to 6/4 by 40p in the £.
- l) 13/8 to 7/4 by 35p in the £.
- m) 15/8 to 9/4 by 30p in the £.
- n) 5/2 to 3/1 by 25p in the £.
- o) 10/30 to 4/1 by 20p in the £.
- p) 9/2 to 11/2 by 15p in the £.
- q) 6/1 to 9/1 by 10p in the £.
- r) 10/1 to 14/1 by 5p in the £.
- s) If over 14/1 the liability would be unchanged.

t) In the case of two or more horses being withdrawn, the total reduction shall not exceed 90p in the £.

In the case of withdrawals in reformed markets, the total deduction over the two or more horses (i.e. one in the original and one in the reformed market) will be calculated on the prices applicable in the original market.

For bets placed in subsequent markets deductions over withdrawn horses in these markets will be calculated on the prices applicable in these markets.

Bets made at Starting Price are not affected, except in cases where insufficient time arises for a new market to be formed, when the same scale of reductions will apply. In the event of the withdrawal of one or more runners in circumstances which would lead to only one runner and therefore a "walkover", all bets on the race will be void. The race will be considered a "walkover" for the purpose of settling bets.

For the purpose of this Rule the non-appearance of a declared runner will be held to be an official notification of the withdrawal of such horse before the race is off. In the case of a horse declared by the Starter "not to have started", a racecourse announcement will be made to that effect. This official announcement will be made before the race result is displayed.

(D) In the event:

i) of an announcement being made that the provisions of Rule 4(C) do not apply on the grounds that no market had been formed at the time of the withdrawal of a declared runner; or

ii) of the withdrawal of a declared runner, all bets (other than ante-post bets) will be settled at Starting Price with the exception of bets struck at prices when Rule 4(C) will operate, based on the advertised price or the first transmitted price of the withdrawn horse(s). In the event of any price change after this time. Rule 4(C) will operate based on the current price of any horse;

iii) of any race where a market has been deemed to have been formed by the S.P. Returners – 90 minutes prior to the advertised time of the commencement of racing, any bets struck will be subject to Rule 4(C) deductions;

iv) that no first show has been transmitted to the off-course industry, yet a market is deemed to have been formed on course by a sufficient sample of bookmakers, Rule 4(C) deductions will apply to bets made on course, prior to the withdrawal of an overnight declared runner, but not to off-course bets.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 9

Do you consider that the minor amendments to Rule 4 are appropriate?

Question 10

Do you have any comments or suggestions in respect of Rule 4(c)?

Question 11

Do you think that Rule 4(c) should remain under the auspices of Tattersalls Committee? If not, which body should be responsible for it?

Question 12

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.12 Respondents' views

As expected, this Rule drew the most comment from the respondents. Six respondents argued that the scale of deductions under Rule 4(C) should or may be altered to some degree, with one respondent stating that nothing less than a fundamental review would be acceptable. Others suggested that the current scale of deductions should remain in place. One respondent suggested that odds such as 8/5, 9/5, 11/5, 12/5 and 16/5, which were becoming more prevalent in the betting ring, should be accommodated within the scale. Another respondent suggested that the scale of deductions should be left unchanged for the time being, but that a longer-term review would be appropriate.

Further, one respondent suggested that the scale of deductions should recognise decimal odds, in line with recent proposals announced by *Racing For Change*, and that the references to the

BHA's Rules on Racing should be updated. The same respondent argued that the language of Rule 4 in particular (and the Rules on Betting in general) needed a thorough re-writing into plain English for the benefit of irregular racegoers.

All of the respondents considered that the responsibility for setting the scale of deductions under Rule 4(C) should remain with Tattersalls Committee.

4.13 Our response

The Rules Panel concluded that the scale of deductions should remain fundamentally unchanged at this stage, but recommended to Tattersalls Committee that a root and branch review should be carried out in the near future. However, the Rules Panel agreed that the insertion of the 'modern' odds (8/5, etc) was appropriate, within the current scale. It was also decided to futureproof the Rules on Betting by adding 'or decimal equivalent' to the scale of odds.

Other minor changes were made to Rule 4 in order to simplify the Rule and to make the language more user-friendly. However, it was decided that the unavoidably technical nature of Rule 4 and the formal nature of the Rules on Betting in general made it difficult to make more fundamental changes to the language used. For clarity, a glossary of terms has been added to the Rules on Betting.

The Rules Panel noted that respondents considered that the provisions of Rule 4(C) should remain under the auspices of Tattersalls Committee. The Committee welcomes this responsibility and will continue to administer Rule 4(C) through the Rules on Betting.

4.14 Rule 5 – proposal

When the 'Weighed In' announcement has been made as provided for in Rule 162 of the Rules of Racing, bets will be settled on the horses as officially announced. Objections or disqualifications made after the 'Weighed In' announcement do not change the result of the race for betting purposes.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 13

Do you agree that Rule 5 should remain largely unchanged?

Question 14

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.15 Respondents' views

Most respondents agreed with this proposal, with minor changes suggested.

4.16 Our response

The Rules Panel altered the number allocated to the former Rule 162, to correspond with the latest version of the BHA's Rules of Racing. The language of Rule 5 was changed slightly in

order to prevent ambiguity – for instance, by deleting the reference to the ‘official’ result, which might sometimes differ from the result at the time of the ‘Weighed-In’ announcement if the BHA subsequently changed the result after an investigation. The Rule was moved to Rule 7 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

4.17 Rule 6 – proposal

Bets made on one horse against another or that one horse beats another are determined by the official result.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 15

Do you agree that Rule 6 should remain unchanged?

Question 16

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.18 Respondents’ views

Few respondents commented on this proposal.

4.19 Our response

The Rules Panel considered that the provisions of this Rule were covered by the new Rule 7. Consequently, the proposed Rule was deleted.

4.20 Rule 7 – proposal

Dead Heats. Where a dead heat is declared, a bet on one of two horses that dead heat loses half the stake, with full odds being applied to the remaining half (if a triple dead heat or more, reduction in proportion).

a) In the event of a double and the first selection dead heats, then the stake is halved and full odds applied. This then becomes the stake on the second selection. Should the second selection also dead heat then the stake is again halved.

b) In the event of any withdrawals, Tattersalls Rule 4(C) reductions will apply to the winnings from the reduced stake.

c) Un-named favourites finishing joint will be subject to the same rule as if they dead heated. Where an un-named favourite both dead heats and is returned joint in the market, then the stake is halved twice in the proportion of one-fourth to the backer and three-fourths to the layer.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 17

Do you agree that Rule 7 should remain largely unchanged?

Question 18

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.21 Respondents' views

All respondents agreed with this proposal.

4.22 Our response

The procedure for settling dead-heat bets has clearly stood the test of time and, with minor language changes, this Rule was left unchanged. The Rule was moved to Rule 10 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

4.23 Rule 8 – proposal

If odds are laid without mentioning the horse, the bets must be determined by the state of the odds at the time it was made. Bets made after a race that a horse will be disqualified stand, even if no objection be made.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 19

Do you agree that Rule 8 should remain largely unchanged?

Question 20

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.24 Respondents' views

Respondents were split on this Rule. Two respondents pointed out that under licence conditions promulgated by the Gambling Commission, itemised tickets must be issued for bets placed, so it should be impossible for '*odds [to be] laid without mentioning the horse*'. One respondent noted that the two sentences of the proposed Rule were unrelated.

4.25 Our response

The Rules Panel noted the comments about itemised tickets, but concluded that there were some circumstances where the licence conditions did not require the issuance of itemised tickets – for instance, credit bets and trade bets. It was decided that the substance of the proposed Rule should remain, with this added clarification and a minor change of language.

The Rules Panel agreed that the two sentences of the proposed Rule were unrelated. Consequently, the Rule was divided into two Rules in the finalised Rules on Betting, with the first half of the proposed Rule 8 becoming Rule 11.

4.26 Rule 9 – proposal

Where any bet is processed with an obvious error in the stake, price and/or terms, bookmakers should settle the bet at least at the correct prevailing stake/price/terms at the time the bet was placed, without the obvious error.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 21

Do you think that the introduction of an ‘obvious error’ Rule is appropriate?

Question 22

Do you agree with the proposed wording?

4.27 Respondents’ views

With one exception, all respondents considered that the introduction of an ‘obvious error’ Rule was appropriate, although there was divergence on how this should best be phrased. However, one respondent pointed out that as Tattersalls Committee was a third party to the betting dispute process (by virtue of its role as an independent dispute resolution service), it was legally unsound for the Committee to frame the Rule on which bookmakers would rely to settle betting disputes based on ‘obvious error’.

4.28 Our response

On legal advice, the Rules Panel agreed that it would be wrong for the Rules on Betting to include any Rule on ‘obvious error’. The ‘obvious error’ Rule, in its various representations, is universally used in the off-course betting industry and it follows that on-course bookmakers and their customers would expect to have a similar Rule. However, each bookmaker will need to make his own provisions for such a Rule by having a variation to the Rules on Betting. Such variation is allowed for by the licence conditions issued by the Gambling Commission, as explained in the preamble to the Rules on Betting. Most bookmakers already do this by having an ‘obvious error’ message on their itemised tickets, although displaying a notice on their boards will also suffice for this purpose.

4.29 Rule 10 – proposal

Subject to Rule 4(A) accumulative bets are not determined until the last event has been run.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 24

Do you agree that Rule 10 should remain unchanged?

Question 25

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.30 Respondents' views

All the respondents stated that this Rule should remain unchanged.

4.31 Our response

The Rules Panel agreed that the Rule should remain unchanged. It was moved to Rule 5 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

4.32 Rule 11 – proposal

Unless otherwise stated, all each-way bets will be settled on the actual number of starters according to the following place terms: -

Fewer than 5 runners – All To Win

5-7 runners – 1/4 odds a place 1-2

8 or more runners – 1/5 odds a place 1-2-3

Handicaps with 12-15 runners - 1/4 odds a place 1-2-3

Handicaps with 16 or more runners - 1/4 odds a place 1-2-3-4

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 26

Do you agree that the original Rule 11 should be deleted?

Question 27

Do you think it is appropriate for the Rules on Betting to list the standard place terms and to underline the impact of non-runners and withdrawals?

Question 28

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.33 Respondents' views

All the respondents agreed that the Rules on Betting should lay down the customary terms on which each-way betting is based. Some respondents considered that these terms should be compulsory, although most recognised that bookmakers were entitled to offer different terms at their discretion.

There was some divergence on what the 'customary' terms should be. Two respondents pointed out that ¼ odds a place in handicap races of 16+ runners was mathematically unviable for bookmakers. One respondent stated that the place terms widely regarded as 'standard' had not always been in place.

Three respondents stated that any bookmaker deviating from the customary terms should make a special effort to prominently display their place terms. One suggested a minimum size for the signage which advertised the different terms.

4.34 Our response

The Rules Panel recognised that it was not empowered to make specific place betting terms compulsory via the Rules on Betting. However, it agreed that the customary terms should be included in the Rules on Betting. Further, the Panel recognised that bookmakers were entitled to offer different terms at their discretion and agreed that the variant terms should be clearly displayed. The Rule was moved to Rule 3 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

4.35 Rule 12 – proposal

In the event of a race being ordered to run over again, or of a false start or breakaway, Starting Price bets will be regulated by the price current at the time of the re-run. All bets in favour of any horse that is subsequently withdrawn from the re-run race will be void. Rule 4(C) will apply to all bets in the event of withdrawals.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 29

Do you agree that Rule 12 should remain unchanged?

Question 30

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.36 Respondents' views

Respondents generally agreed with the proposed Rule, although one respondent argued that the deleted second half of the original Rule should be reinstated.

4.37 Our response

The Rules Panel agreed that the second half of the original Rule should be reinstated. With minor language changes, the Panel concluded that the remainder of this Rule should be retained. This Rule was moved to Rule 6 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

4.38 Rule 13 – proposal

Bets may only be amended or cancelled by mutual consent between the bookmaker and the backer. This does not supersede the provisions of Rule 9.

All bets on horses eligible to run but subsequently unable to start in a re-started race and withdrawn by the Starter will be void and therefore refunded. Rule 4(C) will apply to all bets based on the prices of those horses.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 31

Do you agree with the proposed re-wording of Rule 13?

Question 32

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.39 Respondents' views

Most respondents agreed with the proposal with minor amendments centred mainly on the second sentence and the second paragraph. Two respondents argued that the reference to Rule 9 should be removed and two respondents pointed out that the second paragraph should form part of the proposed Rule 12.

4.40 Our response

The Rules Panel agreed that the first paragraph of this Rule should be retained, with the deletion of the second sentence. The Rule was moved to Rule 2 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

The second paragraph was reinstated to the finalised Rule 6.

4.41 Rule 14 – proposal

In the case of a photo finish, all bets made will be settled as if they had been made on the result of the race.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 33

Do you agree that Rule 14 should remain unchanged?

Question 34

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.42 Respondents' views

All respondents agreed that the proposed Rule should be retained, although one respondent argued that it could be made clearer.

4.43 Our response

The Rules Panel amended the Rule slightly in order to make it easier to understand.

4.44 Rule 15 – proposal

The consultation document proposed that this Rule should be deleted, as it had been superseded by the Gambling Act and it conferred powers on Tattersalls Committee which had been outdated by the provisions of the Act.

Consultation questions relating to this Rule

Question 35

Do you agree that Rule 15 should be deleted?

Question 36

Do you have any other comments or observations on this section?

4.45 Respondents' views

All respondents agreed that this Rule should be deleted. One respondent argued that an 'exceptional circumstances' Rule should take its place, given the fast-moving nature of the betting industry and the likelihood that any set of Rules would be incapable of addressing all eventualities.

4.46 Our response

The Rules Panel agreed that the proposal to delete the original Rule was sound. It further agreed that an 'unforeseen or extraordinary circumstance' Rule should be inserted. This became Rule 12 in the finalised Rules on Betting.

4.47 General proposals on the process to amend the Rules on Betting

The consultation document posed the following questions in relation to the process to update the Rules on Betting: -

Question 37

Do you agree that co-opted persons should sit on the Committee that discusses and approves amendments to the Rules?

Question 38

Do you have any suggestions for persons or organisations, including yourself, who should be represented?

Question 39

Do you think a workshop would be desirable or useful?

Question 40

Do you have any comments or observations on the draft timetable?

4.48 Respondents' views

All respondents agreed that co-opting persons onto an independent Rules Panel was an appropriate and transparent way to proceed. Each respondent nominated at least one such person, including themselves.

Around half of the respondents considered that a workshop would be useful, although one cautioned that expert chairmanship would be required to derive maximum effectiveness.

One respondent considered that the draft timetable was too ambitious, while another proposed that the implementation of the revised Rules on Betting should be targeted at the start of the Flat Turf horse racing season on 27 March 2010, as this was a traditional date for new initiatives in the racing industry.

4.49 Our response

Tattersalls Committee is grateful that so many knowledgeable and experienced persons were able to give up their time to the process of updating the Rules on Betting. The Committee is satisfied that the Rules Panel scrutinised the Rules on Betting in a professional, independent manner. The Committee is also thankful for those persons who nominated themselves for this task, but were ultimately not selected.

The Rules Panel concluded that a workshop would not be an appropriate vehicle to enhance the process of amending the Rules on Betting. This was due to the diverse and widespread backgrounds, knowledge and experience from within the Panel itself, and the high level of scrutiny given to each Rule, plus the imperative to keep as close as possible to an exacting timetable. In the final analysis, the target launch date was narrowly missed.

As a consequence, we can announce that the revised Rules on Betting will come into force on 17 May 2010. The revised Rules will be promulgated on 17 April 2010, thereby giving one month's notice to stakeholders, industry bodies and interested parties.

Tattersalls Committee Rules on Betting

Preamble

These Rules on Betting, as amended from time to time, are issued by Tattersalls Committee. The Rules on Betting were first issued in 1886 and were last revised on 17 May 2010. In accordance with licence conditions issued by the Gambling Commission pursuant to the Gambling Act 2005, licensees must display on their 'joints', in an intelligible format, any rules that differ from these Rules on Betting. A further licence condition requires all licensees to have an independent dispute resolution service. On application and in accordance with the published procedures (details of which are available at www.tattersallscommittee.co.uk), Tattersalls Committee will hear any betting disputes arising from the application or interpretation of these Rules on Betting or any other betting dispute emanating from on-course transactions.

Rule 1. In these Rules on Betting, 'betting' shall have the meaning defined by section 9 of the Gambling Act 2005.

Rule 2. Bets may only be amended or cancelled by mutual consent between the licensee and the backer.

Rule 3. Unless clearly displayed otherwise, all each-way bets except ante-post bets will be settled on the actual number of starters according to the following place terms: -

- Fewer than 5 runners – all to win
- 5-7 runners – 1/4 odds a place 1-2
- 8 or more runners – 1/5 odds a place 1-2-3
- Handicaps with 12-15 runners – 1/4 odds a place 1-2-3
- Handicaps with 16 or more runners – 1/4 odds a place 1-2-3-4

Rule 4. Other than 'first past the post' bets, all bets will be settled according to the result as announced at the 'Weighed-In' with the following exceptions:

(A) Single ante-post bets, being made before 10 a.m. on the day of the final declarations will be void under the following circumstances: -

- i) If the race is abandoned;
- ii) If the race is declared void;
- iii) If the Conditions of the race entry are changed prior to the start of the race;
- iv) If the venue is altered; or
- v) If a horse is eliminated under the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) Rules of Racing, schedule 8 of the Race Administration Manual (F).

However, in any such circumstances accumulative ante-post bets (win or place) will stand and be settled at the ante-post price(s) laid on the remaining horse(s). Any race in which a horse is supplemented does not affect Rule 4(A).

In the event of a race being postponed to another day, ante-post bets placed before the entries have closed will stand and will only be made void if the race is abandoned or made void, if the horse is balloted out or eliminated under the previously mentioned schedule 8 of the BHA's Rules of Racing or if the venue is changed. Ante-post bets placed after the entries have closed will be void, except when the race is run at a later date at the same venue and entries for the race are not reopened, in which case bets will stand.

(B) Bets other than ante-post bets will be void if the race is abandoned or declared void. Bets will stand if the race is postponed to another day and final declarations stand. If the final declarations do not stand, bets will be void. Bets on a horse declared by the Starter 'not to have started' will be void.

(C) Where a bet has been placed and a price taken on the day of the race and there is subsequently an official notification that a horse has been withdrawn or has been declared 'not to have started', the liability of a layer against any horse remaining in the race, win or place, will be reduced in accordance with the following scale depending on the odds current against the withdrawn horse at the time of such official notification: -

Odds (or decimal equivalent)	Scale of deduction (per £)
1/9 or longer odds on	90 pence
2/11 to 2/17	85 pence
1/4 to 1/5	80 pence
3/10 to 2/7	75 pence
2/5 to 1/3	70 pence
8/15 to 4/9	65 pence
8/13 to 4/7	60 pence
4/5 to 4/6	55 pence
20/21 to 5/6	50 pence
Evens to 6/5	45 pence
5/4 to 6/4	40 pence
8/5 to 7/4	35 pence
9/5 to 9/4	30 pence
12/5 to 3/1	25 pence
16/5 to 4/1	20 pence
9/2 to 11/2	15 pence
6/1 to 9/1	10 pence
10/1 to 14/1	5 pence
Over 14/1	No deduction

In the case of two or more horses being withdrawn, the total reduction shall not exceed 90 pence in the pound.

In the case of withdrawals in reformed markets, the total deduction over the two or more horses (i.e. one in the original and one in the reformed market) will be calculated on the prices applicable in the original market.

For bets placed in reformed markets, deductions applied to withdrawn horses in these markets will be calculated on the prices applicable in these markets.

Bets made at Starting Price are not affected, except in cases where insufficient time arises for a new market to be formed, when the same scale of reductions will apply. In the event of the withdrawal of one or more runners in circumstances which would lead to only one runner and therefore a 'walkover', all bets on the race will be void. The race will be considered a 'walkover' for the purpose of settling bets.

For the purpose of this Rule the non-appearance of a declared runner will be held to be an official notification of the withdrawal of such horse before the race is off. In the case of a horse declared by the Starter 'not to have started', a racecourse announcement will be made to that effect. This official announcement will be made before the race result is displayed.

(D) In the event:

i) of an announcement being made that the provisions of Rule 4(C) do not apply on the grounds that no market had been formed at the time of the withdrawal of a declared runner, all bets (other than ante-post bets) will be settled at Starting Price with the exception of bets placed at Early Prices when Rule 4(C) will operate, based on the current price at the time of withdrawal.

ii) of any race where the Starting Price Validators deem that an on-course market has been formed less than 90 minutes before the advertised 'off' time of that race, any bets placed will be subject to Rule 4(C) deductions.

iii) that no prices have been transmitted to the off-course industry, but a market is deemed to have been formed on-course by a sufficient number of licensees, Rule 4(C) deductions will apply only to bets made on-course, prior to the withdrawal of a declared runner.

(E) In the event of a reserve horse replacing a declared runner, all bets placed prior to such a replacement and a new market being formed, other than ante-post bets, will be settled at Starting Price.

Rule 5. Subject to Rule 4(A) accumulative bets are not determined until the last event has been run.

Rule 6. In the event of a race being re-run, or of a false start or breakaway, Starting Price bets will be determined by the price current at the time of the re-run. All bets on any horse that is subsequently withdrawn from the re-run race will be void. Rule 4(C) will apply in the event of withdrawals. All bets on horses eligible to run but subsequently unable to start in a re-started

race and withdrawn will be void and therefore refunded. Rule 4(C) will apply based on the prices of those horses.

Rule 7. When the 'Weighed-In' announcement has been made as provided for in clause 68 of Race Manual (B) of the BHA's Rules of Racing, bets will be settled on the horses as announced. Changes to the result made after the 'Weighed-In' announcement do not affect the result of the race for betting purposes.

Rule 8. Any bet on a photo finish will be settled according to the result at the time of the 'Weighed-In' announcement.

Rule 9. Bets made after a race and prior to the 'Weigh-In' will stand according to the result at the time of the 'Weighed-In' announcement, whether or not there is a Stewards Enquiry or objection.

Rule 10. In the event of a dead heat, a bet on either horse involved in the dead heat loses half the stake, with full odds being applied to the remaining half (if there is a triple dead heat or more, the reduction is in proportion):

a) In the event of a double bet where one selection dead heats, then the stake on this selection is halved and full odds applied. This then becomes the stake on the other selection. Should the other selection also dead heat then the stake is again halved.

b) In the event of any withdrawals, Tattersalls Rule 4(C) reductions will apply to the winnings from the reduced stake.

c) Un-named joint favourites will be subject to the same rule as if they dead heated. Where an un-named favourite both dead heats and is returned joint favourite in the market, then the stake is halved twice in the proportion of one-fourth to the backer and three-fourths to the layer.

Rule 11. If odds are laid without mentioning the horse's name or issuing a ticket, which may sometimes occur for trade or credit bets, the bet must be determined by the state of the odds at the time the bet was made.

Rule 12. The decision of a simple majority of Tattersalls Committee will be final in the event of any unforeseen or extraordinary circumstance not covered by these Rules on Betting.

Glossary of terms

G1. 'Accumulative bet' means a bet involving more than one horse with the winnings from each selection going onto the next selection.

G2. 'All to win' means all stake money, including the place portion of an each-way bet, is put on to win. For instance, £5 each-way becomes £10 win.

G3. 'Ante-post bet' means a bet on an event in advance of the day of the race.

G4. 'Balloted out' means that a horse has been eliminated from a race because the number of potential runners in the race exceeds the maximum number allowed.

- G5. 'British Horseracing Authority' is the official governing body of British horseracing, which sets the Rules of Racing.
- G6. 'Co-favourite' means that three or more horses are the equal shortest odds in the race.
- G7. 'Conditions of the race entry' means the special requirements for a horse to be able to enter a race, as described in the BHA's Race Administration Manual (F).
- G8. 'Double bet' means an accumulative bet with two selections.
- G9. 'Each-way bet' means a bet of equal stake on win and place.
- G10. 'Early Prices' means day of event prices offered more than 90 minutes before the scheduled 'off' time of the particular race.
- G11. 'Favourite' means the horse with the shortest odds in the race.
- G12. 'Final declarations' means the final list of horses entered into a race, normally either 24 or 48 hours before the relevant race day.
- G13. 'First past the post' means the actual finishing order of the horses, excluding any changes to the result for betting purposes which might follow a Steward's Enquiry.
- G14. 'Gambling Commission' means the regulatory body for commercial gambling in Great Britain.
- G15. 'Joint' means the stand and equipment used by licensees to carry out their business at the racecourse.
- G16. 'Joint favourite' means that two horses are the equal shortest odds in the race.
- G17. 'Licensee' means a bookmaker who has been granted a betting operating licence by the Gambling Commission.
- G18. 'Photo finish' means a close finish to a race where the placings can be determined by reference to photographic evidence.
- G19. 'Reformed market' means the prices on a race that are available after the removal of a withdrawn horse or horses.
- G20. 'Reserve horse' means a horse which takes the place of another declared horse that is subsequently unable to run.
- G21. 'Starting Price' means the odds for each horse at the 'off' of a race determined by the Starting Price Regulatory Commission guidelines.
- G22. 'Stewards' Enquiry' means an enquiry by the Stewards into the running of a race.

G23. 'Starting Price Validators' means the people employed by the Press Association to determine the Starting Prices for each horse at the 'off' of the race, who also determine the prevailing odds for withdrawn horses.

G24. 'Supplemented' means an entry into a particular race made after the original entry stage.

G25. 'Un-named joint favourite' refers to where the customer nominates the 'favourite' (rather than selecting a specific named horse) and where two horses are the equal shortest odds in the race.

G26. 'Walkover' means that only one horse takes part in a race.

G27. 'Weighed in' refers to a check after the race that each jockey has carried the prescribed amount of weight. It is also a signal that any Stewards' Enquiry has been completed and thus the result of the race is confirmed for betting purposes.