



Professional Jockeys Association statement about the BHA's latest whip rule revisions

Professional Jockeys Association Chief Executive Kevin Darley said: "This has been the most challenging time for Jockeys for many decades, and Jockeys have shown considerable restraint in recent weeks.

"The PJA has endeavoured to engage constructively with the British Horseracing Authority by suggesting amendments to the whip rules that would retain appropriate constraints on acceptable use but make them workable in practice for the majority of Jockeys. These changes are a step in the right direction, but we have no doubt that there is still more to be done. The rules and penalties as amended are still too strict, and there will inevitably be more difficulties to overcome in the weeks and months ahead.

"In particular, the PJA will continue to press the BHA concerning the period that minor offences remain on a jockeys' record. Twelve months is far too long.

"We welcome the engagement that the BHA plans to have with Jockeys between now and the end of the jump racing season as the ongoing situation is monitored. As such, the PJA is establishing its own review group.

"We also welcome the amended guidance to stewards that will allow them more discretion and a greater degree of flexibility. The whip is an essential tool of a Jockey's trade and, when he or she is using it properly to ensure momentum, safety and correction, then that must be taken into account under the rules."

ENDS

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