



## **PJA RESPONSE TO HAYLEY TURNER BEING SUSPENDED FOR THREE MONTHS**

At a hearing of the Disciplinary Panel of the British Horseracing Authority today, Hayley Turner was suspended for three months for placing bets whilst holding a jockey's licence. Reacting to the decision, Paul Struthers, Chief Executive of the Professional Jockeys Association, said:

"Hayley opened an account with Paddy Power after retiring from the saddle and placed recreational bets on horseracing. Whilst pursuing her second career as a broadcaster, Hayley made occasional returns to the saddle either for invitational events or in preparation for those occasional events and although she didn't bet whilst riding in those events, the fact she was licensed and betting recreationally on British horseracing placed her in breach of the Rules of Racing.

"She has therefore been suspended for three months for what amounts to technical breaches of the Rules of Racing. This is in on the one hand both disappointing and disproportionate to the offences in question and is going to prove very costly to Hayley. However, she undoubtedly had a fair hearing, fully accepts responsibility for her unintended breaches of the Rules of Racing and accepts the punishment. Hayley understands that whilst her breaches were inadvertent it is an important Rule of Racing that requires a penalty that is a sufficient deterrent, even in innocent circumstances like hers.

"The circumstances surrounding this case are unique and it is hard to envisage a similar situation occurring again. Despite this, Hayley has volunteered to appear in one of the next in the series of Jockey Matters films, which will focus on the Rules of Racing and betting to help ensure other jockeys, particularly young riders, understand the Rules of Racing and don't fall foul of them."

14<sup>th</sup> December 2017