



PJA WELCOMES NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2019 FIXTURE LIST

Following the announcement from the BHA detailing new measures designed to support the sports workforce in the 2019 Fixture List, Dale Gibson, PJA Executive Director – Racing, said:

“Servicing the fixture list places significant demands on both jockeys and racing staff, particularly with the ever increasing number of evening fixtures, and we felt it was important that racing collectively took action in recognition of this. The PJA is therefore delighted that it has been agreed to trial our proposals, and we would like to thank those within the sport who’ve helped make it happen.

“The Flat-free periods will allow our members to take time off without missing rides, allowing for some guaranteed rest from a hectic schedule. The agreed earlier finishing times in the evening throughout the core All Weather period will allow jockeys and staff members to get home earlier, which is particularly important bearing in mind the early starts which are required from jockeys more than ever given the well documented staffing issues.

“We will monitor the trial, obtain feedback from our members and continue to advocate for improvements on their behalf.”

PJ McDonald, a leading Flat jockey and PJA Board Member, said:

“You shouldn’t underestimate the benefits of a couple of short breaks and the early finishes. They may seem like small initiatives that won’t make much difference but I can tell you they’ll be of significant help to jockeys and also to stable staff.”

9th May 2018

Notes for Editors:

1. The new measures for 2019 are:
 - All floodlit fixtures (which run from January to mid-April, and from September to December) are to finish earlier, with the final race starting no later than 20:30.
 - A six-day break will be introduced for Flat racing participants at the end of the Turf season in November. In addition there will be an intended five-day break in March towards the end of the All-Weather season (although additional late notice fixtures may be programmed during this period in exceptional circumstances if all Jump fixtures on a day look likely to be abandoned).
 - No fixtures will be programmed on Sunday 22 December 2019, providing an extra racing-free day before Christmas.
2. The full British Horseracing Authority press release can be found [here](#).