

Statement from JCR and the Bookmakers' trade associations (the Associations)¹ on Networking

Jockey Club Racecourses and the Associations have been reviewing and considering for some months the practices of:

- (a) the networking or linking of betting positions where one bookmaker holds more than one position at a racecourse; and
- (b) the networking or linking of betting positions which are operated by more than one independent bookmaker.

During what has been an exhaustive review JCR and the Associations have sought the views and opinions of the Gambling Commission, and bookmakers as well as independent advice from both JCR's and the Associations' legal advisors. JCR and the Associations have accepted the advice they have each received and are therefore issuing this statement to clarify the position.

The networking or linking of betting positions where one bookmaker holds more than one position at a racecourse

JCR and the Associations consider that the terms of the Bookmaker's Licence with the racecourse makes provision for a bookmaker who has more than one position at a racecourse to network those positions provided that bookmaker trades those positions under the same name.

There is no similar provision to allow independent bookmakers to network as has been a gradually increasing practice recently.

The networking or linking of betting positions which are operated by more than one independent bookmaker

The practice of more than one independent bookmaker networking their positions contravenes clause 4.4 of the Bookmaker's Licence with the racecourse. JCR and the Associations consider that such networking amounts to the 'sharing of possession' of each position which is prohibited by clause 4.4.

Both JCR and the Associations have fundamental concerns about the implications of such networking which include: a lack of transparency regarding who is actually laying the customers wager, misrepresents the competitiveness of the betting area to the customer and has the potential to reduce the required number of bookmakers in the sample for returning an S.P.

Accordingly, and although not required under the terms of the Bookmaker's Licence, JCR, with the agreement of the Associations, has decided to give notice to bookmakers that with effect from 13 January 2014, i.e. starting on 14 January 2014, JCR will enforce the terms of the Bookmaker's Licence. Therefore if independent

¹ The Rails Bookmakers Association, National Association of Bookmakers and Association of Racecourse Bookmakers.

bookmakers attempt to network with each other at any JCR owned racecourse they will be in breach of the Bookmaker's Licence and will be removed from the racecourse

Racecourse Data Technologies and the other bookmaker software suppliers have been notified that they may not continue to provide a network in such circumstances from that date.

We look forward to your co-operation on and from 14 January 2014.

Dickon White, Group Director of Betting JCR

Robin Grossmith, Chairman, The Rails Bookmakers Association

Tony Styles, Chairman, National Association of Bookmakers

Mick Williams, Chairman, Association of Racecourse Bookmakers