

**Notes from the eleventh meeting of the AGT Technical Group held  
on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Present: -

Tim Moore (AGT MD: Chair) [TM]  
Neil Pateman (AGT RBRM) [NP]  
Guy Chadwell (Ascot racecourse) [GC]  
Phil Crisp (ARB) [PC]  
Robin Grossmith (RBA) [RG]  
Graham Thorpe (NAB) [GT]

**1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

TM thanked everybody for attending and set out the objectives for the meeting. He particularly welcomed GC to his first meeting of the newly-renamed Technical Group (TG).

**2. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The TG approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

TM suggested that the BRMs could hold a stock of credit card-sized cards containing a brief and simple explanation of Rule 4 to hand out to affected racegoers. The TG agreed this was worth pursuing and TM said he would ask the BRMs and racecourses for their views.

There were no other matters arising that did not appear on the agenda proper.

**4. REVIEW OF GUIDELINES**

The TSC reviewed the existing guidelines and discussed potential new guidelines. TM distributed the written feedback that had been sought in advance from the BRBA.

Betting without a horse quoted: the TG decided that doing so was acceptable for a short time (less than a minute) while carrying out other necessary activities (such as placing a back bet), but deliberately not quoting a horse for an extended time was not permissible. BRMs to enforce.

Betting on the colour of the Queen's hat: the TG noted it was very difficult to determine a source to rely upon as the 'official' result. GC said he would make further enquiries.

Restricting the number of Schedule Y's per operator (or restricting the number of operating licences on which a Schedule Y could appear): it was agreed that the TG/AGT had no remit in this matter.

Request from a licensed operator to be able to 'rep' for a family member who also held an operating licence: the TG agreed that this would potentially contravene clause 4.4 of the 2052 racecourse/bookmaker licences and was therefore not permitted.

Request to publish AGT's pitch renting/sharing strategy: it was agreed that this would not be appropriate.

Rule 4 – update on early withdrawals (i.e. before a show was passed off-course by the Press Association): TM said he had asked the PA to process as many 'on-course only' Rule 4

messages as possible, to avoid early bets being settled at SP as the rules dictate (which causes confusion for customers). It was agreed that BRMs should monitor and report on this.

Rule 4 – query on the deductions made when two or more withdrawals occur: TM to follow up.

Definition of the ‘next worst’ pitch when allocating late bookmakers: the TG agreed that it would be more logical to rename this the ‘next best’ pitch. TM to advise BRMs, who should note the names of late bookmakers on their daily reports.

Update on ‘new-style’ display boards (1): TM said that one of the manufacturers had asked if the permitted height could be increased to include approximately 100mm for electronic nameplate signage, with an undertaking that no other nameplates would be attached to the top of the joint. The TG reaffirmed its previous discussion on this matter, which concluded that there would be no changes to the specification before December 2019, other than in extremis.

Update on ‘new-style’ display boards (2): the TG discussed the current Guidelines to determine whether they were suitable in health and safety terms, with specific focus on the requirement for bookmakers to make their own arrangements to ensure that any equipment was safe and fit for purpose. The TG agreed that the Guidelines were appropriate.

Update on ‘new-style’ display boards (3): the TG discussed the lowering of rails boards and the emerging evidence – in a very small number of cases – that the new-style boards were too heavy to lower/replace and had caused damage to the poles used by the Rails bookmakers. It was agreed to keep this under review.

Pony Racing SPs and Rule 4s: the TG agreed that TM should make enquiries to establish (a) who returns SPs for Pony Racing and (b) whether it might be possible for the PA to determine Rule 4 deductions along the same lines as for events held under the Rules of Racing.

Betting without the favourite when the favourite is withdrawn: the TG agreed that bets were unaffected by such a withdrawal.

Having ‘no finishers’ as a contingency when betting unorthodox: the TG agreed that this would be pointless, as the race would be void regardless.

Bookmakers’ dress standards: the TG agreed that bookmakers and staff must comply with the dress standards required of the general public for the ring in which they are betting. The option to introduce stricter dress standards than this would lie with the racecourse and/or the bookmaker associations.

Networking in distant rings: the TG noted that there was no evidence that networked pitches in inaccessible rings had caused problems related to who was in control of the joint. No changes were recommended, although TM said that he would review this from time to time with the Gambling Commission.

Win and each-way prices on the same board: the TG agreed this was not acceptable as it could be an attempt to circumvent the standard place terms.

Networked pitches betting with one board showing win only prices and one showing each-way prices: the TG agreed this was fine.

Overall, it was agreed that no changes to the current Guidelines were necessary, so the current Guidelines would remain in place.

## **5. AOB**

RG said that some racecourses made their public address systems so loud that it was a Health and Safety concern, as the decibels exceeded the permitted level. It also made it difficult for bookmakers and customers to hear bets being called. GC agreed that he would take this point to the RCA's Gambling Advisory Group for discussion.

NP said that £2.50 each-way bets showed as £3 each-way on the payout sheet for most bookmakers. TM agreed to follow up with the software provider.

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be called whenever a particular issue (or suite of issues) required discussion, probably late in 2018 or early in 2019.