



## **JCSA Technical Committee and Stewards Department Announce Immediate Implementation of 2024-2025 Racing Rule Updates.**

In accordance with the responsibilities outlined in Article 2 of the JCSA Racing Regulations, the JCSA Technical Committee is pleased to announce the immediate implementation of the updated **Rules of Racing** for the 2024-2025 season. These updates aim to further enhance the fairness, safety, and integrity of our sport, addressing emerging challenges and incorporating valuable feedback from industry stakeholders.

The following is a summary of the key changes to the **Rules of Racing**, effective immediately. A full list of the updated rules, along with detailed explanations, can be accessed at the following link: [Link to Full Rules].

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### **Key Updates to the 2024-2025 Rules of Racing:**

#### **1. New Rules**

- **Stewards' Authority (Article 13):** The Stewards now have the authority to declare a horse a non-runner if it gains an unfair advantage at the start.
- **Jockeys (Article 68):** Apprentice jockeys will no longer be allowed weight allowances in races with a prize pool of SAR 300,000 or more, including all Cup, open races, and certain Saudi Cup Qualifiers.
- **Horse Eligibility (Article 74):** Horses found to be ineligible for a particular race will be disqualified.

#### **2. Jockey Regulations**

- **Weight Allowances (Article 69):** Apprentice jockeys must only claim the weight allowances to which they are entitled. Failure to comply will result in the disqualification of the horse ridden by the apprentice.

#### **3. Health and Safety**

- **Pathological Cardiac Arrhythmia (Article 91):** Trainers must comply with the JCSA Code of Practice in the event a horse is diagnosed with pathological cardiac arrhythmia.

#### **4. Shoeing Rules (Instruction 14)**

- New regulations now prohibit the use of traction devices such as toe grabs and stickers on horses running on different surfaces, ensuring safe and fair competition across all conditions.



## 5. Penalties and Fines

- **Veterinary Records:** Fines for failing to maintain proper veterinary records have been reduced from SR 10,000 to SR 5,000.
- **Drug Testing Penalties:** New penalties, including disqualification of trainers for up to two years, will be enforced for failing to submit horses for drug testing.

## 6. Appeals Process (Article 117)

- The timeline for filing appeals has been revised to 3–7 days from the date of the decision, depending on the nature of the case.

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### Revised Rule: Horse Rating Reassessment

A horse's rating will be reassessed following each race. If, for any reason, a horse's rating cannot be reassessed in the period between its race and the close of entries for its next start, the horse may still be entered in a handicap race scheduled to take place before the new rating is published. In such cases, the rating at the time of entry will be used.

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These changes are designed to ensure the highest standards of safety, fairness, and compliance within racing events, in line with international best practices.

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### Statement from Stewards Department:

“The Stewards Department strongly supports these updated rules and their immediate implementation,” said Rion Hitchener, Chief Steward. “We are committed to ensuring the integrity and fairness of every race, and these updates will enable us to more effectively enforce regulations. By implementing these changes, we further strengthen our ability to maintain a transparent and safe environment for all participants, jockey, and trainer alike. We believe these updates will significantly contribute to the long-term success and credibility of the sport.”

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For more information or to access the complete list of updated rules, please visit: [Link to Full Rules].

## Summary of Rules of Racing Changes 2024 - 2025

Article	Topic	Original	Changes	Type
Terminology	Scratching Deadline	Add to Terminology: The deadline specified in the Race conditions by which horses not participating must be scratched by their Trainer or authorised representative. If no specific deadline is provided in the race conditions, the scratching deadline will be 10:00 am on the day of the Race.		New Approved
Article 13	Stewards' Committee	If the Stewards determine that a horse has gained an unfair advantage at the start of a race, they have the authority to declare the horse a non-runner.		New Approved
Article 68	Jockeys	<p><b>No apprentice allowances in races worth SAR300,000 and above and ALL Cup and open races</b></p> <p>a. The only additions to these would be those races held as Saudi Cup Trials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1351 Turf Sprint Qualifier (SAR165,000)</li> <li>• Al-Mneefah Qualifier (SAR165,000)</li> <li>• Riyadh Dirt Sprint Qualifier (SAR165,000)</li> <li>• Al-Dareyah Cup (Obaiya Classic Qualifier) (SAR165,000)</li> </ul>		New Approved
Article 69 (b)	Jockeys	<del>An apprentice jockey cannot claim an allowance they are not entitled to claim.</del>		New Remove
Article 69 (b)	Jockeys	If a horse is ridden by an apprentice jockey who benefits from a weight allowance they are not entitled to claim, the horse will be disqualified from the race.		New Approved

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Article 74 (1) (d)	Horse Eligibility	If a horse competes in a race for which it is ineligible, it will be disqualified.		New Approved
Article 91 (g)	The Race	If a horse is diagnosed with pathological cardiac arrhythmia, the trainer or their authorised representative must adhere to the JCSA Code of Practice (Cardiac Arrhythmias Detected During Post-Event Inspections) before the horse is permitted to race again.		New Approved
Instruction 14	Shoes and Shoeing	<p><u>Current Instruction:</u></p> <p>For Races on dirt/sand, no Horse shall enter the parade ring or run in shoes that have protrusions from the ground bearing surface on the front hooves in excess of 2mm, as measured from the plane of the ground bearing surface, or in the case of a plate with multiple planes, the height shall be measured from the plane that allows for the maximum total height (eg. Queen's Plate XT). Protrusions from the ground bearing surface, toe grabs, turn downs, blocks, calkins and stickers are limited to ¼ inch (7 mm) on the rear hooves.</p> <p>Turf Track No horse shall run in shoes which have any protrusions. Only Queen's Plate or Queen's Plate XT will be allowed on the front and hind. Nail heads must not protrude more than 2mm from the surface of the shoes. No Horse may Race unshod without the prior approval of the Stewards. The use of glue-on shoes is permitted on all surfaces under the following condition: The shoes are fitted to the satisfaction of an approved farrier. Plates and tips must not exceed 150 grams in weight, provided that upon application the Stewards may give permission for the use of</p>	<p><u>Revised Instruction:</u></p> <p><b>Races on Dirt or Sand:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horses cannot enter the parade ring or race with shoes that have protrusions exceeding 2mm from the ground-bearing surface of the front hooves. If the shoe has multiple planes, the measurement will be taken from the plane that results in the maximum height (e.g., Queen's Plate XT).</li> <li>Traction devices, such as rims, toe grabs, bends, jar calks, and stickers, are prohibited on both forelimb and hindlimb shoes during training and racing on all surfaces.</li> </ul> <p><b>Races on Turf:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horses are not permitted to race in shoes with any protrusions. Only Queen's Plate or Queen's Plate XT shoes are allowed on both front and hind hooves. Nail heads must not extend more than 2mm above the surface of the shoes.</li> <li>Horses must not race unshod without prior approval from the Stewards.</li> <li>Glue-on shoes are permitted on all surfaces,</li> </ul>	Approved

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		<p>approved therapeutic plates up to a weight of 170 grams.</p> <p>The use of any shoes, other than plain shoes in Races requires the prior approval of the Stewards. This includes bar shoes, pads and substances adhering to the sole of the foot and any other shoe of a non-standard design or nature.</p> <p>The heads of nails must not protrude more than 2mm from the surface of the shoes as measured from the plane of the ground bearing surface or in the case of a plate with multiple planes, the height shall be measured from the plane that allows for the maximum total height.</p> <p>Outer rim or outer rim-type shoes are permitted in races on dirt/sand surfaces on hind hooves only. Elevation of shoes from the ground bearing surface is limited to ¼ inch (7mm).</p> <p>Any mishap to a plate or tip occurring in a Race must be reported by the Trainer to the Stewards without delay.</p>	<p>provided they are fitted to the satisfaction of an approved farrier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plates and tips must not exceed 150 grams in weight. However, the Stewards may grant permission for the use of approved therapeutic plates up to 170 grams.</li> <li>• The use of any non-standard shoes, including bar shoes, pads, substances adhering to the sole, or any other specialised design, requires prior approval from the Stewards.</li> <li>• Nail heads must not protrude more than 2mm from the shoe's surface. If the shoe has multiple planes, the measurement shall be taken from the plane that results in the maximum height.</li> <li>• Any mishap involving a plate or tip during a race must be reported immediately by the Trainer to the Stewards.</li> </ul>	
Article 26 (e)	Starter	<p><u>Current Rule:</u></p> <p>e) If a Horse is scratched from a Race before the cut off time of 10:00am on the morning of the race, that horses stall number will be removed, and all other numbers moved accordingly if there are no Standby Starters. If there are Standby Starters, then the first Standby Starter will take the place of the scratched horse with the lowest saddle cloth number.</p>	<p><u>Revised Rule:</u></p> <p>If a horse is withdrawn from a Race before the 10:00 am cut-off time on race day, its stall number will be removed, and the remaining stall numbers will be adjusted accordingly unless there are Standby Starters. If Standby Starters are available, they will be assigned stalls in the order in which the original horses were withdrawn. The first Standby Starter will take the stall of the first horse withdrawn, and so on.</p>	<p>Modification <b>Approved</b></p>

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Article 73 (c)	Horse Eligibility	Article 73 (c) Race cannot be cancelled even if only one horse is declared.	<u>Revised Rule</u> Article 73(c) A race may be cancelled if only one horse is declared.	Modification <b>Approved</b>
Article 76 (f) <i>Start of Riyadh season</i>	Penalties in Handicaps	<u>Current Rule:</u>  76 f) Penalties in Handicaps: If a horse runs in a race, it can enter in a handicap that is scheduled to take place the following weekend before its new rating has been published. The rating used will be the rating at entry. A winner of a race the previous weekend will be given a 3.5Kg penalty (7 points) which will be added to the weight to be carried. The maximum weight that can be carried will be 65.5kgs. Other horses that have raced but not won the previous weekend will run off their rating at entry, irrespective of whether their rating goes up or down that week.	<u>Revised Rule:</u>  A horse's rating will be reassessed following each race. If, for any reason, a horse's rating cannot be reassessed in the period between its race and the close of entries for its next start, the horse may still be entered in a handicap race scheduled to take place before the new rating is published. In such cases, the rating at the time of entry will be used.  If a horse wins a race during the previous weekend, it will incur a 3.5 kg penalty (7 points), which will be added to the weight it must carry. The maximum weight a horse can carry will be 65.5 kgs. Horses that have raced but did not win the previous weekend will compete with the rating they had at entry, regardless of any subsequent rating changes.	Modification <b>Approved</b>
Article 81	Withdrawing Horses	<u>Current Rule:</u>  Every horse declared to run must be in the racecourse stables by no later than 2 hours before its scheduled race time; failure to do so will result in the horse being withdrawn by the Stewards. Every horse which has run in a race must remain on racecourse property until 30 minutes after the time of the race having been run: (Amended 10/11/23)  a) If a horse is withdrawn from a race after 3:00 pm on Tuesday up to 10:00 am on the day of the race a fixed penalty will be imposed (as set	<u>Revised Rule:</u>  Every horse declared to run must be in the racecourse stables no later than 2 hours before its scheduled race time; failure to comply will result in the horse being withdrawn by the Stewards. Additionally, every horse that has competed in a race must remain on racecourse property for at least 30 minutes after the race has concluded.  a) If a horse is withdrawn from a race after 3:00 pm on Tuesday but before the scratching deadline on the day of the Race, a fixed penalty will be imposed as specified in the Race Day Penalties.	Modification <b>Approved</b>

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		<p>out in the Race Day Penalties).</p> <p>b) If a horse is withdrawn from a race after 10:00 am on the day of the race a fixed penalty will be imposed (as set out in the Race Day Penalties).</p> <p>c) If a horse is withdrawn after 10:00 am that has standby runners a fixed penalty will be imposed (as set out in the Race Day Penalties).</p> <p>d) If after 10:00 am on the day of the race there are no scratching's in a race that has standby runners, all in standbys will be scratched automatically, and no standby runners will be allowed to race after this scratching.</p>	<p>b) If a horse is withdrawn from a Race after the scratching deadline on the day of the race, a fixed penalty will be imposed as specified in the Race Day Penalties.</p> <p>c) If a horse is withdrawn after the scratching deadline in a Race that has Standby Runners, a fixed penalty will be imposed as specified in the Race Day Penalties.</p> <p>d) If there are no withdrawals after the scratching deadline in a Race with Standby Runners, all standby runners will be automatically scratched, and no standby runners will be permitted to race.</p>	
Article 88 (c) and (d)	Equipment	<p><u>Current Rule:</u></p> <p>c) When a horse is to run wearing blinkers, hood, visor, eyeshield, eyecover, sheepskin pieces and/or a tongue strap a declaration to that effect must be made on Scratch and Withdrawal day under Article 64 (3) d). Blinkers, visor, hood, eye shield and eye cover should all be worn under the bridle. No headgear is allowed to be fitted or removed at the start. Any horse that runs in contravention of this rule or any person found in contravention of this rule</p> <p>c) If a horse has been declared to run under Article 64 (3) d) with blinkers, hood, visor, eyeshield, eyecover, sheepskin cheek pieces, or any combination thereof, these must be worn by the horse on the way to the start and during the Race. If they are not worn on the way to the start, the horse may be withdrawn by the Stewards.</p>	<p><u>Revised Rule:</u></p> <p>c) If a horse has been declared to run under Article 64 (3) d) with blinkers, hood, visor, eye shield, eye cover, sheepskin cheek pieces, or any combination thereof, these must be worn by the horse on the way to the start and during the Race. If they are not worn on the way to the start, the horse may be withdrawn by the Stewards.</p> <p>d) If no declaration has been made for a horse to wear blinkers, a visor, hood, eye shield, eye cover, sheepskin cheek pieces, or any combination thereof, these must not be worn by the horse on the way to the start or during the Race. If they are worn on the way to the start, the horse may be withdrawn by the Stewards.</p>	<p>Modification <b>Approved</b></p>

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		d) If no declaration has been made for a horse to wear blinkers, visor, hood, eyeshield, eyecover, sheepskin cheek pieces, or any combination thereof, these must not be worn by the horse on the way to the start or during the Race. If they are worn on the way to the start, the horse may be withdrawn by the Stewards.		
Art 117	Appeals	<p><u>Current Rule:</u></p> <p>Article: 117 Anybody penalized by the Stewards Committee and who feels aggrieved by the penalty can submit an appeal to the Appeals Committee against the decision according to Article 6</p> <p>1) A person against whom a decision was issued by the Stewards Committee has the right to object (appeal) by submitting an appeal to the Appeals Committee after paying a fee of SR 5,000.</p> <p>2) The appeal must be submitted in Arabic within (48) hours after the date of the decision issued against the appellant.</p>	<p><u>Revised Rule:</u></p> <p>2. (new) Unless the decision being appealed against relates to a Race Day decision, the Notice of Appeal must be submitted within 7 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia working days of service of the full written reasons for the decision.</p> <p>3. (new) If the decision relates to a Race Day decision, the Notice of Appeal must be submitted within 3 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia working days of the notification of the decision.</p>	Modification <b>Approved</b>
Art 119 (G)	Prohibited Substances - Penalties	<p><u>Current Rule:</u></p> <p>In a case where stewards have ordered a sample to be taken from any runner either before or after a race, and that order is not obeyed the horse will be disqualified and placed last if it finished in the first 5 places and the Trainer fined SR. 5,000. It will not be eligible to be entered in races until it has returned a negative drugs test. The trainer/owner should make arrangements with the Stewards to have the horse presented for testing before the first race on a race day. The cost of the test must be paid for by the</p>	<p><u>Revised Rule:</u></p> <p>If the Stewards order a sample to be taken from any horse, either before or after a race, and that order is not complied with, the horse will be disqualified or, in the case of a pre-race test, withdrawn from the Race. Additionally, the Trainer will be disqualified for a period of two years. The horse will not be eligible to enter any Races until it has returned a negative drug test. The Trainer or Owner must arrange with the Stewards to present the horse for testing before the first Race on a race day, with the cost of the test to be covered by the Trainer or Owner.</p>	Modification <b>Approved</b>



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		<p>trainer/owner. If this horse did not finish in the first 5 places or the test was ordered before racing, it will not be eligible to be entered for races until it has returned a negative drugs test and the same procedure as below will apply.</p>		
Article 130	Training Tracks Regulations	<p><u>Current Rule:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Track work Regulations issued by JCSA are to be observed at all times, Disciplinary action may be taken by the Stewards against any person found to be in breach of these Regulations (as set out in the Race Day Penalties).</li> <li>2) The opening of the Training Tracks rests entirely with JCSA.</li> <li>3) The only persons permitted to use the Tracks shall be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Authorized Trainers holding current licenses to Train under the JCSA Racing Rules.</li> <li>b) Jockeys, Work Riders and Grooms Licensed by the JCSA according to Trainers request.</li> <li>c) Those granted permission to do so by JCSA Management or by the Stewards Committee.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><u>Revised Rule:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The JCSA Track Work Regulations must be observed at all times. As outlined in the Race Day Penalties, the Stewards may take disciplinary action against anyone found to be in breach of these Regulations.</li> <li>2. The opening and operation of the Training Tracks are solely at the discretion of the JCSA.</li> <li>3. The following individuals are permitted to use the Tracks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Licensed Trainers authorised under the JCSA Racing Rules.</li> <li>b) Jockeys, Work Riders, and Grooms licensed by the JCSA at the request of Trainers.</li> <li>c) Individuals granted permission by JCSA Management or the Stewards Committee.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. The minimum age for a Work Rider born in Saudi Arabia or a GCC country is 15 years unless Saudi Arabian labour laws specify otherwise.</li> <li>5. The minimum age for a Work Rider not born in Saudi Arabia or a GCC country is 18 years unless Saudi Arabian labour laws specify otherwise.</li> </ol>	<p>Modification <b>Approved</b></p>
Item	Topic	Policy Update		Type

## Summary of Rules of Racing Changes 2024 - 2025

**Penalty Amendments: Approved**

64 (1) (d)	Failure to keep records of all Veterinary Procedures and Medication Treatments or Incomplete records	Amended to SR 5000
119(G)	Horse selected for drugs testing but Trainer refuses to allow testing	Horse disqualified. - Trainer Disqualified for 2years.
130	Breach of Track Regulations	SR 500 to SR 2000
133	Violent or Improper conduct towards Stewards or Officials	Single penalty Range SR 1,000-15,000

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