

- (10) (i) Should the Starter consider that through any faulty action of the starting stalls, or for any other reason, a fair start has not been effected he shall declare it a false start and order the jockeys, by any available means, to return to the starting post. The Starter's decision on these points shall be final. When the Starter has declared a false start, the Stewards may order the race to be abandoned and thereby declared void.
- (ii) Should the Starter declare a false start and is unable to so notify the jockeys, the Stewards shall order the race to be abandoned and thereby declared void.
- (11) A start in front of the starting post or on a wrong course is void and the horses may be started again as soon as practicable but in the event of any horse running the course from a false start or from a void start, the trainer or owner may with the consent of the Stewards withdraw his horse from the race. A start before the appointed time may be declared void by the Stewards.

Horses

- Rule 33.** (1) All licensed, registered and approved persons shall comply with the requirements of animal welfare by taking such measures as should result in all horses under the control of the Club being cared for and treated in a humane and proper manner.
- (2) Any licensed, registered or approved person may be penalised if in the opinion of the Stewards such person has committed an act which compromises or impacts or has the potential to compromise or impact on the welfare of a horse.

Rule 34. The age of a horse shall be reckoned as follows: —

- (1) For a horse foaled in the Northern Hemisphere from 1st January in the year which it is foaled;
- (2) For a horse foaled in South America from 1st July in the year which it is foaled;
- (3) For a horse foaled in the Southern Hemisphere (other than South America) between the first day of July and the thirty-first day of December: —
 - (i) from the first day of August in the year in which it was foaled if its dam was first covered on or after the first day of September in the previous year, as that covering is recorded by the Stud Book.

- (ii) from the first day of August in the year previous to the year in which it was foaled if its dam was first covered before the first day of September in the year previous to the year in which it was foaled, as that covering is recorded in the Stud Book.
- (4) For a horse foaled in the Southern Hemisphere (other than South America) between the first day of January and the thirtieth day of June, from the first day of August in the year previous to the year in which it was foaled.

Registration of Names

- Rule 35.**
- (1) A name may be registered for a horse only by application to the Club on the prescribed form signed by or on behalf of the owner of the horse unless otherwise ordered by the Stewards of the Jockey Club.
 - (2) If the name is available within the criteria laid down by the Stewards of the Jockey Club the name will, after registration, be the horse's name under these Rules.
 - (3) When a name is registered by the Club for a horse foaled outside Hong Kong a letter code will, if necessary, be added to denote the country of origin.
 - (4) A name may not be changed for any horse whose name has been registered by another Recognised Racing Authority without notifying that Recognised Racing Authority.
 - (5) When a horse has been registered by the Club no change of name will be permitted except with the permission of the Stewards of the Jockey Club.
 - (6) If a same or similar name, whether in English or Chinese, be simultaneously claimed for two horses the order of priority shall be determined by lot at the Registry Office.
 - (7) Every provision contained in this Rule shall be subject to the power conferred upon the Stewards of the Jockey Club by these Rules to register or to refuse to register or to cancel any registration of a horse, notwithstanding any contrary implication which may be contained in any such provision.
- Rule 36.**
- (1) No horse may be entered for or take part in any official test if such horse is unbranded.
 - (2) No horse may be entered for or take part in any barrier trial or race unless such horse is branded and has a registered name.