

RCI MODEL RULES COMMITTEE
PETITION FOR NEW RULE OR CHANGE TO EXISTING RULE

Please submit this petition via email to rules@arci.com. Submissions received within 45 days of the next committee meeting will only be considered at that meeting at the discretion of the President or Chair of the Model Rules Committee. Printed petitions should be sent to:

Racing Commissioners
International 1510 Newtown Pike,
Suite 210

Lexington, KY

Your Contact Information:

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Organization:	ROAP; International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities
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A. Brief Description of the Issue:

(FROM Cathy O'Meara's public statements)

“One of the most public roles of the steward is adjudicating the running of the race and, in particular, reviewing potential infractions of interference. Through the years, uniformity has become crucial due to simulcasting both domestically and internationally and the expectation that the rules are the same regarding interference. While the procedure and mechanics of reviewing the race are the same regardless of location, there are differing philosophies of how to adjudicate interference violations.

“Aptly, these two philosophies are referred to as Category 1 and Category 2. North and South America, France, Germany, all subscribe to the Category 2 philosophy, which basically states the stewards may disqualify if, in their professional opinion, the foul altered the finish of the race, regardless of whether that foul was accidental, willful, or the result of careless riding. Some also describe it as costing a horse the opportunity for a better placing.

“The stewards must determine, first, was the foul actually committed and, second, did that foul alter the finish of the race. In very few jurisdictions is the old "foul is a foul" philosophy adhered to where a horse must be disqualified when a foul is committed.

“The steward should always be given discretion to use their professional judgment as the circumstances of any race are never the same.

“Other international jurisdictions subscribe to the Category 1 interference philosophy, with Japan being the most recent to convert back in 2013 from a 2 to a 1, to become more unified with the Asian Federation countries.

“Category 1 countries will only demote or change the placings if the horse that caused the interference improved his position because of that interference. The overall placings of the horse that was interfered with is not necessarily taken into account, but rather how they finished relative to each other.

“Also, it's important to note the difference in terminology internationally with regard to placings. The term "disqualification" is used here in North America, whereas the term "demotion" is used elsewhere. While it may just seem like semantics, internationally the term "disqualify" refers to a much more serious violation, where the horse is essentially removed from the race, stripped of all placing and purse, due to some egregious actions during the race.

“While these philosophies on interference may result in two different final outcomes, remember the stewards still apply the same process to reach decisions and they strive for consistency.”

B. Discussion of the Issue and Problem

See above.

This issue affects the riders and fans.

*The existing Model Rule is: **ARCI-010-035 Running of the Race (E)(2,3,4).***

C. Possible Solutions and Impact

No RCI Model Rule Amendment is proposed at this time. This item is for discussion purposes to gather public and regulatory input.

See the memorandum concerning the IFHA.

D. Please identify any affected stakeholder groups that expressed support or opposition.

No correspondence concerning this matter has been received at time of submission.

E. Attach the model rule language you are proposing. **Not applicable at this time.**

F. Do any racing jurisdictions currently have a version of this rule in effect? If yes, please attach copies of those rules. **n/a.**

G. Review the RCI Model Rules and identify any other Model Rules this change would affect and submit proposed amendments to those rules to comply with changes that would be made by this proposal.