



香港賽馬會  
The Hong Kong Jockey Club

29 November 2019

Dear ARCI Board and Model Rules Committee Members,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman, IFHA International Harmonisation of Racing Rules Committee ('IHRRC').

It is my understanding that Agenda Item 9 of the upcoming ARCI Model Rules meeting on Thursday, 12 December, 2019 in Tucson, AZ, addresses the matter of the Category 1 interference Rule. I would respectfully request that the IHRRC's position on this important issue be considered when the agenda item is discussed.

The IFHA International Agreement on Breeding, Racing, and Wagering ('IABRW') adopted a Model Rule in 2017 which promotes the Category 1 interference Rule as the best practice philosophy to operate under when adjudicating on interference as it relates to the placings of a race. Since that time, most of the remaining major outlier countries (France, Germany, and South American, and previously Japan) have promulgated applicable Rules and successfully implemented the transition to Category 1, thereby achieving greater international harmonisation amongst major racing jurisdictions. It is noteworthy that none of these jurisdictions has recorded an increase in riding offences due to the shift in philosophy and there has actually been a slight decline in some jurisdictions. In addition, South America (OSAF) also has shown an increase in international simulcast signal rights with a slight increase in overall turnover.

In the event that the ARCI Model Rules Committee and subsequently the ARCI Board adopts the Category 1 philosophy, and promulgates Rules to facilitate the change, the IHRRC strongly encourages mirroring the language already set forth in the IABRW Model Rule which provides:

*If, in the opinion of the Staging Authority's relevant judicial body, a horse or its rider causes interference and finishes in front of the horse interfered with but irrespective of the incident(s) the sufferer would not have finished ahead of the horse causing the interference, the judge's placings will remain unaltered.*

*If, in the opinion of the Staging Authority's relevant judicial body, a horse or its rider causes interference and finishes in front of the horse interfered with and if not for the incident(s) the sufferer would have finished ahead of the horse causing the interference, the interferer will be placed immediately behind the sufferer.*

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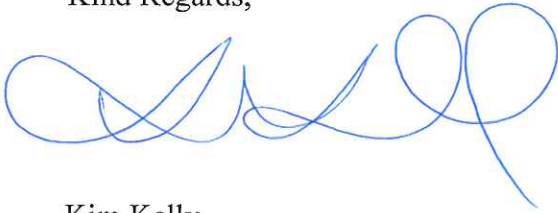
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*Racing Authorities may, within their Rules, provide for the disqualification of a horse from a race in circumstances in which the Staging Authority's relevant judicial body deems that the rider has ridden in a dangerous manner.*

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the ARCI for continuing this business-critical discussion and I encourage the further promulgation of Rules to harmonise our racing industry at the international level. The Committee is always available to discuss or answer any additional questions that you may have.

I wish you the best of luck with your upcoming meeting.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the text 'Kind Regards,'.

Kim Kelly  
Chairman, IFHA International Harmonisation of Racing Rules Committee