



## International Mounted Games Association Rules Committee

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### *Rule Change Request Document*

Name:	<b>Jens Martin / Peter Dale</b>	Country:	<b>IMGA</b>
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#### Summary of Change Requested:

The question of when a race finishes has been asked many times and never properly answered. This rule change request seeks to answer that question whilst also standardising signals given by referees. It also makes the sequence of events clear in terms of race starting, ending, assistant referees raising objections and appeals being made.

#### Current Rule Book Wording:

CR2.3. The only situation in which the referee takes no action is when the damage is minor; allowing the rider to continue with the game, and the damage is not the responsibility of the rider.

Otherwise, the referee decides whether or not to stop the race, whether or not to eliminate the rider concerned, and whether or not to re-run the race.

The race is stopped if the breakage is dangerous or if there is major damage which is not the responsibility of the rider concerned, but nevertheless prevents that rider from continuing.

The Individual, Pair or Team concerned is eliminated if the damage is the responsibility of the rider.

The race is re-run after a stoppage but without any rider who has been eliminated.

CR8.2. In the event of equipment being upset as per CR7.1., assistant referees will alert the referee by raising their flags. The race may be stopped and rerun at the discretion of the referee.

CR8.3. When the race is rerun any teams, pairs or individuals to have already completed the race at the time it was stopped, will not take part and their original finishing positions will stand. The team, pair or individual committing the offence will not take part in the rerun and will be awarded zero points unless the offence happened as a direct result of an obstruction by another rider. Any other teams, pairs or individuals who have committed elimination offences at the time the race was stopped will also not take part in the rerun and will score no points.

CR11.1. Any rider may return to correct his/her error, even after crossing the Finish line, providing that the referee has not declared the race to be over.

CR11.3. The referee may declare a race to be over by blowing the whistle.

CR19.2. The Referee may stop and rerun a race if equipment is found not to be identical.

### **Injuries**

CR15.1. If an injury occurs, the Referee may choose to stop the race and rerun it once the injury has been attended to.

CR15.2. When the race is rerun any teams, pairs or individuals to have already completed the race at the time it was stopped, will not take part and their original finishing positions will stand. The team, pair or individual suffering the injury will also not take part in the rerun and will be awarded the lowest points available for that race unless the injury was a result of an obstruction by a rider from another team, pair or individual. Any teams, pairs or individuals to have committed elimination offences at the time the race was stopped will not take part in the rerun and will score no points.

### **The start**

CR21.1. The signal to start in all races is the drop of a flag, or by other signal notified by the Referee at the briefing.

CR21.2. The Referee alone decides whether the start is fair. If it is not, the Referee blows the whistle and the race is restarted.

CR21.3. All riders and ponies must be behind the Penalty line for the start of the race. The Referee raises the flag. The riders are called forward, STAND behind the Start line and the race is started by the drop of the flag.

CR21.4. Any pony which crosses the Start line before the flag is dropped is sent back behind the Penalty line by the Referee.

CR21.5. If a pony which has been sent back crosses the Penalty line before the start of the race they may be eliminated at the end of the race.

CR21.6. A rider crossing the Penalty line before the start may correct this error as with any other line fault.

CR21.7. If the Referee orders a pony to be sent back for causing a false start, the Team Trainer has the opportunity to replace that pony with another member of the team. However, the rider must still start from the Penalty line.

CR21.8. If a rider is not ready, he/she may raise his/her hand. A referee will not start a race if a rider has his/her hand raised.

### **The finish**

CR22.1. Riders must be in the saddle with feet astride, but not necessarily in the stirrups, when crossing the Start/Finish or Changeover line during their part of a race.

CR22.2. All races are decided by the order in which the head of the pony of the last member of each team crosses the finish line.

CR22.3. Riders must pass between the flags marking out the playing area in order to

complete their part in a race.

CR22.4. When a rider finishes their part of a race carrying a piece of equipment, that rider must cross the start/finish or changeover line carrying the equipment in his/her hand.

CR22.5. At the end of a race, any riders who are at the Changeover end of the arena may only return to the Start/Finish end when signalled to do so by the Referee. Any infringement incurs elimination.

CR22.6. In order to save time, a referee may, exceptionally and at their own discretion, blow the whistle to end a race before all participants have finished. In this case, the teams, pairs or individuals remaining are each awarded an equal share of the remaining points.

#### Suggested New Rule Book Wording:

CR2.3. The only situation in which the referee takes no action is when the damage is minor; allowing the rider to continue with the game, and the damage is not the responsibility of the rider.

Otherwise, the referee decides whether or not to suspend the race, whether or not to eliminate the rider concerned, and whether or not to re-run the race.

The race is suspended if the breakage is dangerous or if there is major damage which is not the responsibility of the rider concerned, but nevertheless prevents that rider from continuing.

The Individual, Pair or Team concerned is eliminated if the damage is the responsibility of the rider.

The race is re-run after a suspension but without any rider who has been eliminated.

CR8.2. In the event of equipment being upset as per CR7.1., assistant referees will alert the referee by raising their flags. The race may be suspended and rerun at the discretion of the referee.

CR8.3. When the race is rerun any teams, pairs or individuals to have already completed the race at the time it was suspended, will not take part and their original finishing positions will stand. The team, pair or individual committing the offence will not take part in the rerun and will be awarded zero points unless the offence happened as a direct result of an obstruction by another rider. Any other teams, pairs or individuals who have committed elimination offences at the time the race was suspended will also not take part in the rerun and will score no points.

CR11.1. Any rider may return to correct his/her error, even after crossing the Finish line, providing that the referee has not suspended the race.

CR11.3. The referee may suspend a race by giving one long blow of the whistle.

CR19.2. The Referee may suspend and rerun a race if equipment is found not to be identical.

### **Injuries**

CR15.1. If an injury occurs, the Referee may choose to suspend the race and rerun it once the injury has been attended to.

CR15.2. When the race is rerun any teams, pairs or individuals to have already completed the race at the time it was suspended, will not take part and their original finishing positions will stand. The team, pair or individual suffering the injury will also not take part in the rerun and will be awarded the lowest points available for that race unless the injury was a result of an obstruction by a rider from another team, pair or individual. Any teams, pairs or individuals to have committed elimination offences at the time the race was suspended will not take part in the rerun and will score no points.

### **The start**

CR21.1. The Referee will give two short blows of the whistle when a race is ready to be started. Upon this signal, all start riders are to line up behind the penalty line.

CR21.2. Once all riders are lined up behind the penalty line, the Referee raises the flag. The riders are called forward, stand behind the Start line and the race is started by the drop of the flag.

CR21.3. The Referee alone decides whether the start is fair. If it is not, the Referee gives one long blow of the whistle, the race is suspended and restarted.

CR21.4. Any pony which crosses the Start line before the flag is dropped is sent back behind the Penalty line by the Referee.

CR21.5. If a pony which has been sent back crosses the Penalty line before the start of the race they will be eliminated at the end of the race.

CR21.6. A rider crossing the Penalty line before the start may correct this error as with any other line fault.

CR21.7. If the Referee orders a pony to be sent back for causing a false start, the Team Trainer has the opportunity to replace that pony with another member of the team. However, the rider must still start from behind the Penalty line.

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### **The finish**

CR22.1. Riders must be in the saddle with feet astride, but not necessarily in the stirrups, when crossing the Start/Finish or Changeover line during their part of a race.

CR22.2. All races are decided by the order in which the head of the pony of the last member of each team crosses the finish line.

CR22.3. Riders must pass between the flags marking out the playing area in order to complete their part in a race.

CR22.4. When a rider finishes their part of a race carrying a piece of equipment, that rider must cross the start/finish or changeover line carrying the equipment in his/her hand.

CR22.5. Once all riders have completed the race the Referee will give one long blow of

the whistle thereby suspending the race. Only at this point can any riders who are at the Changeover end of the arena return to the Start/Finish end. Any infringement incurs elimination.

CR22.6. In order to save time, a referee may, exceptionally and at their own discretion, give one long blow of the whistle to suspend a race before all participants have finished. In this case, the teams, pairs or individuals remaining are each awarded an equal share of the remaining points.

CR22.7. After the race has been suspended by the Referee (and there is to be no rerun) the Assistant Referees will have the opportunity to raise their flags and make any rule infringements known to the Referee.

CR22.8. Once the Referee has made decisions on whether any teams, pairs or individuals are to be eliminated, these decisions are relayed to the commentator. The Referee will then give three short blows of the whistle, thereby signaling the race to be finished.

Reason for Change Request:

This would standardise the way referees give signals in the ring and bring structure to the how the end of games are managed. May seem a little long winded but should be a big bonus.

**For Internal Use Only:**

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Reference:	2016 – 12
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Submission Date:	10/05/16
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Decision Date:	11/07/16
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Votes	
Jens Martin	<b>In Favour</b>
Younes Ahlbom	<b>Not In Favour</b>
Nikki Carter	<b>Not In Favour</b>
Philippe Gargallo	<b>Not In Favour</b>
Lois Hamilton	<b>Not In Favour</b>
Iain Hopkins	<b>Not In Favour</b>
Total In Favour:	<b>1</b>
Total Not In Favour:	<b>5</b>

Result:	Change Rejected
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Actual Adopted New Rule Book Wording:

N/A
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Reason for Decision:

No interest from committee
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Implementation Date:	N/A
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