



International Mounted Games Association Rules Committee

Rule Change Request Document

Name:	Nikki Carter
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Country:	Chairman
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Summary of Change Requested:

There has been much referee discussion about the start, and what is meant by STAND. This rule changes aims to clarify this.

Current Rule Book Wording:

. CR22.3. All riders and ponies must be behind the Penalty line for the start of the race. The Referee blows the whistle to let riders know that the arena is prepared for the start. 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.

Suggested New Rule Book Wording:

. CR22.3. All riders and ponies must be behind the Penalty line for the start of the race. The Referee blows the whistle to let riders know that the arena is prepared for the start. The Referee raises the flag. **The riders walk forward, being prepared to pause behind the Start line** and the race is started by the drop of the flag.

Reason for Change Request:

Contrary to common thought, riders do not have to walk from the Penalty Line to the Start Line.

The dictionary definition of Stand does not include stationary, only "have or maintain an upright position, supported by one's feet."

Much smoother starts are achieved WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE RIDERS if the flag can be dropped when all riders are in a line and travelling at the same pace

For Internal Use Only:

Reference:	2019 - 05
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Submission Date:	14/05/2019
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Decision Date:	13/10/2019
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Votes	
Jens Martin	In Favour
Davy Quinn	In Favour
Iain Hopkins	In Favour
Brian Kennedy	In Favour
Margaret Welsby	In Favour
Alun Whitney	In Favour
Total In Favour:	6
Total Not In Favour:	0

Result:	Change Accepted
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Actual Adopted New Rule Book Wording:

<p>CR22.1. The signal to start in all races is the drop of a flag, or by other signal notified by the Referee at the briefing.</p> <p>CR22.2. The Referee alone decides whether the start is fair. If it is not, the Referee blows the whistle and the race is restarted.</p> <p>CR22.3. All riders and ponies must be behind the Penalty line for the start of the race. The Referee blows the whistle to let riders know that the arena is prepared for the start. The Referee raises the flag. The riders are called forward, they will then pause and be prepared to stand behind the Start line and the race is started by the drop of the flag.</p> <p>CR22.4. Any pony which crosses the Start line before the flag is dropped is sent back behind the Penalty line by the Referee.</p> <p>CR22.5. 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.</p> <p>CR22.6. A pony or rider is deemed to have crossed the start or penalty line if any one of their feet are above, on or over the start finish line.</p> <p>CR22.7. A rider crossing the Penalty line before the start may correct this error as with any other line fault.</p> <p>CR22.8. If the Referee orders a pony to be sent back for causing a false start, the Team Trainer</p>

has the opportunity to replace that pony with another member of the team or pair. However, the rider must still start from the Penalty line. If a race is re-run or restarted any teams, pairs or individuals who have been sent back to the Penalty line by the referee must still start from the Penalty line.

CR22.9. If a rider is not ready, he/she may raise his/her hand. A referee will not raise the flag if a rider has his/her hand raised. Once the flag is raised however and the riders are under starter's orders, only the referee will decide when to start the race and it is the responsibility of the rider to ensure they are facing forwards and ready to start.

CR22.10. Riders must be mounted on their pony when crossing the Start/Finish or Changeover line when entering the playing area at the beginning of their part of the race (except when specified otherwise by the rules of the game). A rider is deemed to be mounted if they are on or above the saddle with each knee on either side of the pony and below the level of the saddle skirt. Feet do not need to be in the stirrups.

Reason for Decision:

Enormous amount of discussion on this one with countless possible changes to the start rule discussed. Ultimately it was decided to essentially enforce the existing rule (with a few tweaks) in the way that was always intended. Davy Quinn will ensure that all referees stick to the same start procedure going forward as was used at the 2019 WPC.

Implementation Date:	January 1 st 2020
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