



Channel Islands Horseracing Authority

Report into the start of the La Verte Rue Associates Handicap on 30 August 2021

13 September 2021

This report is made pursuant to a referral by the racecourse Stewards (the “**Stewards**”) as set out in the Stewards Report for the race meeting at Les Landes, Jersey on 30 August 2021.

What happened

The race was a 5 furlong and 100 yards sprint.

RELAXED BOY, ridden by Mr Freddy Tett, was pulled up immediately after the start of the race.

No false start was declared by the Starter. RELAXED BOY was therefore deemed to be a runner for betting purposes.

The Rules of Racing

Manual (B) Rule 36.4 states that:

“36.4. Each horse shall be considered as having come under Starter's Orders when the Starter has carried out such action as to cause the race to be declared Off in accordance with Rule 37.2.”

Manual (B) Rules 37.2 and 37.3 state that:

“37.2. A race shall be declared Off when

37.2.1. in a race started from a starting gate, the Starter has dropped his flag and released the starting gate;

37.2.2. in a race started by a flag, the Starter has dropped his flag.

37.3. But Paragraph 37.2 does not apply where the Starter declares a false start under Rule 38.”

Review of the race video

As noted by the Stewards, the Starter's flag was still raised at the point RELAXED BOY passed it and in fact, was still raised when most of the field had passed it and the Starter goes out of camera shot.

It was therefore reasonable for Mr Tett to assume that the race had not started since the provisions of Rule 37.2.1 had not been fulfilled when he passed the Starter notwithstanding that no false start was indicated by the Advance Flag Operator waiving the recall flag.

It was equally reasonable for the rest of the field to assume that the start was proper since the recall flag was not raised.

The Advanced Flag Operator was not sufficiently advanced down the course. The entire field were on her in less than two seconds after the start. That being said, as the Starter did (according to the Stewards) eventually drop his flag, this made no difference to what happened. The Advance Flag Operator would not have signalled a false start to the riders unless the Starter had done so by waiving his flag.

The Starter eventually dropping his flag means that the conditions of Rule 37.2.1 were fulfilled and so the provisions of Rule 36.4 applied. It was correct that RELAXED BOY was deemed to be a runner having come under Starters Orders.

Findings

This was an unfortunate incident for which blame must lie entirely with the Starter. It would seem that he simply forgot to drop his flag at the proper time as he had no intention of declaring a false start. The actions of all riders were reasonable in the circumstances and there is no case of misconduct for any of them to answer.

Postscript

The Starter will be asked to ensure that the Advanced Flag Operator is at least half a furlong from any start, preferably further in sprint races when the horses are moving at rapid speed.

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