

RACING TERMINOLOGY

RACE TYPES

All Weather – Racing on a synthetic surface, allowing flat racing to take place all year and generally in all types of weather.

Bumper – A Flat race run under National Hunt Rules, also known as a National Hunt Flat Race.

Banded Stakes – Level weights races for flat horses officially rated below 50, which are split into different rating bands.

Claiming Races – Races where all the runners are eligible to be claimed for a fixed price by anyone wishing to do so. The weights carried in these races are determined by the asking price of the horse, which is set by the owner and trainer – the higher the price, the greater the weight carried.

Classic Races – The five most prestigious Flat races run in England. They are the Derby and St Leger (for 3yo Colts & Fillies), the 2,000 Guineas (for 3yo Colts), the Oaks and the 1,000 Guineas (for 3yo Fillies).

Flat Novice Races – Flat races for racehorses aged two or three that have not won more than two races.

Flat Race – A race run under Flat racing rules. A flat race has no jumping obstacles in it.

Graded Race – Highest quality National Hunt races which are ranked 1, 2 or 3 in order of quality. Also what 'Group races' are called in the USA.

Group Race – Highest quality Flat races which are run all over the globe and make up a worldwide classification system for horse races. Group races are ranked 1, 2 or 3 in order of quality.

Handicap – A race in which the handicappers assign weights to be carried by each horse according to recent or past racing form.



Hurdle Race – A race run over 2 miles or more with wooden hurdles as obstacles.

Listed Race – A high class race one grade below Group and Grade Class races. The winner and placed horses gain valuable 'black type' form, which enhances their breeding value.

Maiden – A race for horses that haven't won a race under rules, or a term for a type of horse that is eligible for these races.

National Hunt – A race run under National Hunt rules. Races include 'Hurdle' races, 'Steeplechases' and 'Bumpers'. 'National Hunt' Novices' Hurdles – Hurdle races for racehorses that have not run on the Flat and are still Novices.

Point-to-Point – A Race that is run over fences for Amateur Jockeys. The horse has been hunting a minimum of four times to qualify it to run in Point-to-Point's. Many top chasers began their careers in Point-to-Points including Kingscliff.



Selling Race (Seller) – Also colloquially known as 'a Seller', it is a race in which the winner is auctioned immediately afterwards. Owners should be aware that if you do enter your horse in a selling race and it wins, it will be auctioned, whether you want it to be or not!

Sprint – Any race under a mile.

Steeplechase – A race run over 2 miles or more with birch fences as obstacles.

Weighing In/Weighing Out – Jockeys must sit on the racecourse scales before and after every race to verify their racing weight to the Clerk of the Scales.

RACEHORSE TERMS

Black Type – A thoroughbred that wins or is placed in a Group or Listed race will earn 'Black Type' against its name. This increases the worth of the racehorse and its family in breeding terms.

Colt – A male horse under four years old that has not been gelded

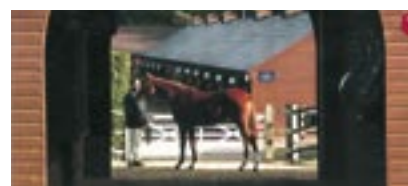
Covering Fee – The amount paid by a mare's connections to a stallion's connections when a stallion 'covers' (mates with) a mare.

Dam – The mother of a thoroughbred horse.

Foal – Any horse under the age of one year old.

Filly – A female horse under four years old.

Gelding – A male horse which has been gelded (castrated).



Horse – A male horse, which is in training, aged four years old and over and has not been gelded.

Mare – A female thoroughbred aged five or older.

Sire – The father of a thoroughbred horse.

Stallion – A male horse used for the breeding of other racehorses.

Thoroughbred – Breed developed for racing. A thoroughbred must be registered with Weatherbys Stud Book or a recognised foreign authority.

Yearling – A one year old thoroughbred.

JOCKEY TERMS

Allowance – A decrease in the weight to be carried by a thoroughbred due to its age, past performance or the limited number of winners that the jockey may have ridden.

Apprentice – A young flat jockey who has not won more than 95 races in his/her career under rules. Apprentice jockeys may 'claim' – which means that they are allowed to ride at a few pounds lighter than the handicapper has allotted their intended mount. The amount of weight that they are allowed to claim depends on the number of winners they have ridden.



Amateur – A jockey who does not gain a race riding fee and is not a professional. An amateur is eligible for a weight concession in certain races.

Breeches – Lightweight trousers worn by the jockey when riding in a race.

Conditional – A young jump jockey who has not won more than 65 races under rules. Conditional jockeys may ‘claim’ in exactly the same way as apprentice jockeys.

Skull Cap – Protective headwear worn by jockeys to help prevent injuries during a race fall.

Valet – Jockeys employ valets to organise their racing equipment.

RACECOURSE TERMS

Ante Post – Early odds offered by bookmakers before the day of a race.

Bar – Betting term used to inform ‘punters’ that all the other horses not mentioned in the betting have ‘odds’ larger than that price; e.g. 6-1bar.

Blinkers – An aid to help horses concentrate whilst racing. They fit over the horse’s head, with cups around the eye pieces that prevent the horse from seeing behind him. There are various forms of blinker – Visors (blinkers with slits in the cups that allow the horse to partially see behind him), Sheepskin Cheek Pieces and Pacifiers are all permitted but must be declared and are listed in the racecard.

Card – Abbreviation for the racecard, which is produced by the racecourse and contains all information pertaining to the race day, including runners and riders.

Clerk of the Course – Has British Horseracing Authority accreditation and inspects and approves the track for racing under the Orders & Rules of Racing.

Clerk of the Scales – A person employed by the British Horseracing Authority to verify that jockeys carry their correct allotted weight in a race.



Colours (Silks) – The colours (left) worn by the jockey in a race. These must be registered by the owner with Weatherbys to avoid duplication.

Dead Heat – When two horses are given equal placings in a race because the judge cannot split them in a photo finish.

Disqualification – A change in the order of finish, by the stewards’ ruling, due to a breach of the British Horseracing Authority’s Orders & Rules of Racing.

Distance – When a racehorse wins by 30 lengths or more, it is said to have won by ‘a distance’.

Enquiry – A review of the race by the stewards for the purpose of discovering possible rule violations.

Faller – A horse that has fallen or unseated his jockey, usually at a fence or hurdle, although occasionally on the flat.

Finishing Straight – The part of the course which runs in front of the Grandstand and includes the finishing post.

Flutter – A slang term for placing a bet.

Form – A racehorse’s performance record in races. This can be obtained from Weatherbys.

Furlong – 220 yards or 201 metres. Eight furlongs make up a mile. Races are measured in miles and furlongs.

Going – Depicts the state of the ground on the racetrack on any given day. The track conditions can be described as follows and are listed in the order of increasing moisture within the ground: Hard, Firm, Good to Firm, Good, Good to Soft, Soft, Heavy.

Going away – To win with an ever-increasing margin.

Hands and Heels – When a horse is ridden without use of the whip.

Hard Held – Winning or running with ease.

Interference – A situation during a race where a horse is impeded by one or a number of other runners.



Judge – Appointed by the British Horseracing Authority to decide the winner of a race.

Length – The length from a thoroughbred’s nose to its tail. Used in racing as a general measure of the winning margin in a race.

Non-runner – A thoroughbred which is removed from the starting field, after being declared to run in a race.

Objection – A claim of foul after the running of a race made by a jockey or trainer with a runner in that race. The objection is made to the Stewards.

Odds – The prices (amount you stand to win if your bet is successful) offered by bookmakers on the runners in any given race.

Official Rating – Every horse, after a certain number of runs, is allocated an Official Rating by the British Horseracing Authority handicappers based on its level of performance. This rating will then determine the weight a horse will carry in handicap races.

On the Nod – When 2 or more racehorses are involved in a tight or ‘photo’ finish.

Open Ditch – A jump in a steeplechase which has a ditch on the take-off side.

Orders & Rules of Racing – The set of rules by which horse racing in Great Britain is governed. The British Horseracing Authority ensures that these rules are adhered to in every race.

Paddock / Parade Ring – The enclosure where horses are mounted before a race.

Photo Finish – When the judge requires the viewing of a photograph of the finish of a race to decide the winner.



Pre-Parade Ring – The enclosure where horses are saddled before a race.

Pull Up – When a jockey slows a horse that is completely out of contention or when a jockey stops the horse racing altogether due to an injury or equipment problem.

Punter – Informal term for a person placing a bet.

Refused – When a horse refuses to enter the stalls, decides to stop running during a race, or will not jump the obstacles during a race.

Run-out – When a horse refuses to jump an obstacle by ducking to one side of it.

Short Head or Nose – The smallest distances a horse can win a race by.

Stakes – Prize money offered in a race.

Starting Stalls – Used to start the field fairly in a flat race. The horses are led into the stalls individually and the stall gates are opened together by the starter. Stall positions are ‘drawn’ before the race and can give an advantage depending on the racecourse.



Stewards – Officials responsible for enforcing the British Horseracing Authority’s Orders & Rules of Racing.

Tailed Off – A horse that has become left or finished far behind the main field of runners.

Under Orders – When the starter calls the racehorses into line before the start of a race. Once racehorses have come ‘under orders’ they are judged to have competed in the race and no bets will be refunded.

Under Rules – The term given to a race run under the Orders & Rules of the British Horseracing Authority.

Unplaced – A horse that finishes outside the main placings, which is generally the first three home, depending on the size of the field.

Walkover – ‘A one horse race’ the one contestant must turn up to the course and walk over the line to claim the prize money.

Water Jump – A jump in a steeplechase which has water behind it.

Weights – Fixed weights to be carried by horses in a race according to ability, age, distance, sex, and time of year. This weight includes the jockey and equipment, saddle and weight cloth.

Weight Cloth – Leather cloth with pockets that hold flat pieces of lead. They are removable and interchangeable. The weight cloth is carried under the jockey’s saddle and is to ensure that they ride at the correct weight in a race.



TRAINER TERMS

Bandages – Used to protect the front and back legs of the horse when traveling or racing.

Bit – A piece of metal used to control the horse. It is placed above the tongue and attaches to the bridle on either side of the mouth. There are a number of different types of bits, but mostly a snaffle bit is used in races.

Bleeder – A horse that suffers exercise-induced pulmonary bleeding in its respiratory system. Such horses might slow abruptly when their breathing is inhibited, while training or during a race.

Bridle – Leather strapping worn over the horse’s head and used to control the horse.

Colic – The equivalent to a human stomach ache. Severe cases may require surgery or can be fatal, especially if the horse suffers a “twisted gut”.



Conformation – A horse’s anatomical make up.

Declarations – Racehorses must be declared to run 24 hours (for NH racing) and 48 hours (for Flat racing) prior to the race that is intended for them. It is normally the trainer that does this.

Entries – Trainers, or whoever an owner has given ‘Authority to Act’, make entries for racehorses into races normally five days before a race. There is a cost to enter races to the owner. Some high quality races require entries to be made well in advance, e.g. the Derby requires entries to be made when the racehorse is in its yearling year. The Programme Book and Racing Calendar (both available from Weatherbys) list details of future races.

Farrier – Makes and fits racing plates (shoes) for horses’ hooves.

Girth – Leather or webbing strap that holds the jockey’s saddle in place.

Hand – The units used to measure horse’s height from the ground to the top of the withers (highest point between the shoulders). One hand is equal to 10 centimetres.

Hooves – The equine equivalent of a human toe nail which protrudes from extremities of bone on each of the horse’s legs.

Infection – A medical term for a ‘bug’ that can affect a horse’s wellbeing.

Lame – When a horse does not want to put weight on one or more of its legs, it can also be termed as ‘unsound’. There can be any number of causes, and these can be curable.



Laminitis – Inflammation of the soft tissue inside the wall of the hoof, usually caused by diet.

Late finisher – A horse that shows its best performance during the final stages of a race.

Missed the Break – A bad start when the stalls open.

Pedigree – The family history of a horse.

Racing Plate – Lightweight (generally aluminium) shoes that are used especially for racing.

Reins – Leather straps attached to the bit and used to steer the horse.

Snaffle – The type of ‘bit’ normally used by a racehorse.

Sore Shins – Inflammation of the membrane of the cannon (shin) bone, often caused by galloping on firm ground. Usually causes minor lameness and is curable by rest.

Stable Hand – Looks after the racehorse on the race day and during its training.

Stud – The venue where the breeding of horses takes place. A stallion is said to ‘stand’ at a stud.

Tack – A broad term incorporating all racing equipment for the thoroughbred. The term ‘tacking up’ is used to refer to the process of putting a racehorse’s tack on.



Training Agreement – An obligatory document setting out the terms and conditions between trainer and owner. To download a sample Trainers Agreement please visit the ownership section of our website at www.britis horseracing.com

Tongue Strap (Tie) – An elastic tie (sometimes an old pair of tights!) is used to hold the tongue down to prevent the horse from getting its tongue over the bit. If the tongue does get over the bit it can make the horse harder to control and can impede its breathing.

Turn of Foot – The ability of a racehorse to show a burst of acceleration.

Virus – A disease by which a whole stable can be affected to the detriment of horses performance.

Work – A common term used to describe a horse’s training.

