



OWNERSHIP DOs AND DON'Ts

3. Ownership Control

- a. Owning a racehorse registered by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (“Club”) is a privilege as there are many more aspiring Owners than there are horses available. It is incumbent upon all Owners to understand and abide by the Club’s Rules regarding ownership, and to exercise proper control over their own horses.
- b. When a Member submits an application to import a horse or a griffin he/she undertakes to be responsible for the management of that horse during its racing life. The Owner is required to delegate certain responsibilities to his/her Trainer as the “Authorised Agent” under the “Authority-to-Act Rule” (Rule 163 and Rule Definitions) so that the trainer can enter the horse for races and engage a jockey. The Owner may not wish to be consulted in these processes, but he/she would be breaking the Rules if he/she allowed any person other than the trainer to make or control entries or engage a jockey unless he/she has received approval for the appointment of that person as his/her “Authorised Representative” under Rule 44. It is the Owner’s responsibility, under the Rules of Racing, to ensure that his/her trainer instructs the jockey to ride the horse in such a manner as to obtain the best possible placing. This is done by means of a written instruction to the trainer in the Authority-to-Act form which every Owner must sign.
- c. Owners are responsible for meeting all livery and training charges themselves. To permit another individual to pay these charges would indicate that control had been passed to that party.



d. An Owner may seek the advice and assistance of his/her trainer, his/her jockey or his/her friends in the purchase and import of his/her horse. Thereafter, the responsibility for the horse's general control and management rests squarely with the individual Owner himself. Partners are regarded as though they were Sole Owners - they share equal responsibility. In the case of a Syndicate, every syndicate manager is held to be responsible.

4. Race Tips and Privileged Information

a. By a Trainer

(i) The Rules do not prohibit an Owner from seeking tips from his/her own or, indeed, from any trainer in respect of any runners in any race. However, an Owner has no entitlement to "privileged information" about any horse, except his/her own, and it is entirely up to the trainer whether or not he provides information about other horses. A trainer has a right, and a duty, to maintain confidentiality regarding the performance of other Owners' horses in his stable. "Privileged information" means information about the likely performance of a horse in a race which is not publicly available and consists of matters which are not readily observable or known by the public.

(ii) The Rules prohibit an Owner from offering any reward, including an interest in a bet, to induce a trainer to give him/her tips concerning horses other than his/her own.

(iii) The Stewards of the Jockey Club consider it improper for an Owner to try to obtain information by means of any threat, such as the removal of a horse from the stable.



b. By a Jockey

(i) The giving of tips by jockeys is a very different matter.

(ii) Naturally, each Owner will be interested in the state of fitness of his/her own horse as well as its chances in any race in which it is to run. The Owner of a horse is fully entitled to ask the jockey who has been riding the horse in work about its state of fitness and about its race chances; if a different jockey is to ride the horse in the race the Owner is of course also entitled to ask the race jockey.

(iii) It is equally permissible for a jockey, like any other individual, to express his general views and opinions on the chances of any horse in any race. However, that is very different from passing privileged information privately to an individual, and this is not permitted. It must be appreciated that a jockey will frequently be in possession of privileged information about horses, and he is explicitly forbidden by the Rules to pass on any such information to anybody except the Owners and trainers of those horses. This means that no person, Owner or otherwise, should try to persuade or even ask a jockey to provide tips or privileged information, except for the Owner of the horse which the jockey has been riding or is about to ride. If a jockey provides such tips or privileged information in breach of the Rules, he is liable to disciplinary action and so is the person who persuaded the jockey to divulge such information, whether for reward or otherwise. All jockeys have been warned about this and have been told that they should refer any such requests to the trainer.



5. Betting

a. By a Trainer

A trainer is allowed to bet and to have an interest in a bet, provided that the bet is placed with licensed operators and such interest is not by way of inducement. However, the placing of a bet on a horse to lose a race or to be beaten by any other horse or horses in a race is strictly prohibited.

b. By a Jockey

(i) Jockeys are not allowed to bet nor are they allowed to have any interest in a bet under any circumstances. All jockeys are fully aware of such prohibition and that they will be subject to disciplinary action, which may lead to disqualification, if they breach this Rule. Any person who places a bet on behalf of a jockey also commits an offence under the Rules.

(ii) The reason why jockeys are more tightly controlled than trainers is very simple. If a jockey bets in a race or passes on privileged information, he is more likely to be tempted or pressurised into riding according to his bets or tips rather than on the merits of his horse and the risk of the jockey engaging in a dishonest and corrupt manner is higher.