

NOTICE ON RING CLOSURES

The Licence Agreements concluded between individual bookmakers and Jockey Club Racecourses provide for what is to happen to bookmakers' positions when a betting ring is closed.

However it has come to our attention that there may be some misunderstanding about this and this Notice is intended to make the position clear - in so far as it is not already.

Bookmakers will know that various racecourses differ but the normal situation is for there to be a Tattersalls ring, a silver ring and possibly minor rings. Sometimes there is no silver ring. Sometimes there are several categories of minor rings. Within each ring, there is a distinction between those that have positions within the maximum bookmaker number and those that hold positions beyond the maximum bookmaker number.

Historically, when a particular ring is closed, those bookmakers that have positions within that ring take positions in the ring immediately superior, behind those bookmakers with positions in the maximum bookmaker number and before those bookmakers with positions beyond the maximum number.

Accordingly, if a silver ring is closed, those bookmakers with a position in that silver ring will take a position in Tattersalls behind those bookmakers with positions in the maximum bookmaker number and before those bookmakers with positions beyond the maximum bookmaker number. If a minor ring is closed, those bookmakers will take up like positions in the silver ring. If there is more than one minor ring, as is the position at certain racecourses, on closure of a particular minor ring, bookmakers in the closed ring will take up a position in the minor ring that is immediately superior, or if there is no minor ring immediately superior, in the silver ring.

This is the position provided for by the Licence Agreements. The Licence Agreements provide that any question of superiority between rings is to be decided by the Bookmaker Associations. Plainly there would be no need for this provision if any other circumstances were to apply. However because questions have been raised, Jockey Club Racecourses and the FRB negotiating team have decided to issue this Notice setting out the position as to what is to happen if a ring is closed. This is a re-statement of the position as it has always been understood to be, and should be of no surprise to bookmakers.