

# TRADITIONAL HORSE RACING COMPETITION RULES

## I. General Provisions.

National horse races include horse races over long distances.

Horse races are divided into types depending on the length of the distance and the age of the horse:

1. **Alaman Chabysh** – races for horses of all ages over a long distance. Distance – 25 km.
2. **Kunan Chabysh** – races for two-year-old horses. Distance – 12 km.

Horses are allowed to participate in horse races regardless of their breed.

The age of the horse is verified by the refereeing panel by examining the teeth before the start of the race. A horse that does not meet the age requirements for the race is not allowed to compete.

On a single race day, a horse may participate in only one event.

## II. Participants.

Persons who do not have a jockey qualification may participate in national horse races, provided that they possess practical riding skills and are familiar with these rules.

To participate in horse races, jockeys must provide a notarized parental permission. Registration of jockeys is carried out upon presentation of a birth certificate and written parental consent.

The minimum age of a jockey is 10 years.

The minimum weight of a jockey is 25 kg.

For safety purposes during races, jockeys must wear protective equipment: a helmet and a protective vest. Without this equipment, jockeys will not be allowed to participate in the races.

## III. Start Rules.

The start of the race is given “from a standing start” at a distance of at least 30 meters before the starting post. If the required alignment has not been achieved and the

starter has not lowered the flag but the participants cross the starting line (false start), the participants must return to the initial position.

All participants must follow the start rules and strictly obey the instructions of the starters.

The race is considered to have started after the command of the starter and the signal of the chief referee at the moment when the first horse crosses the starting line.

If, in the opinion of the referees or the starter, a horse does not obey the jockey and this may lead to an accident or injury, the horse is removed from participation in that race.

#### **IV. Rules During the Race.**

During the race, the jockey (rider) is allowed to change direction only after overtaking the horses behind by at least three lengths.

Upon entering the finishing straight, the jockeys in the leading line must strictly maintain their direction and must not obstruct overtaking either on the right or on the left.

It is permitted to urge the horse with a whip (*kamcha*) only by striking the hindquarters, without swinging it to the sides and without touching other participants.

Cruel or meaningless use of the whip is prohibited.

It is prohibited to wave the whip in front of another horse or strike it. For this violation the horse is deprived of a prize place.

For the first violation the rider receives a warning.

For the second violation – disqualification for two races.

For the third violation – disqualification until the end of the season.

After passing the finish post, the use of the whip is strictly prohibited.

Violations of the race rules include:

- lack of effort to win or to obtain a prize place, passive riding. In this case, the refereeing panel has the right to stop the race and declare it invalid;
- changing direction on the track without overtaking the horses behind by three lengths (crossing);
- forcing another horse to the right or left (crowding);
- zigzag riding that interferes with other participants;
- squeezing a third horse between two horses;

- assisting other participants to improve their position during the race;
- violation of the start procedure;
- shouting by riders that interferes with other participants.

If two participants from the same training stable or horse owner take part in the same race and one of them uses prohibited actions to prevent a participant from another stable or owner from winning or taking a prize place, thereby improving the chances of victory for a participant from their own stable or owner, both participants from that stable or owner are deprived of prize places.

If a participant interfered with one or more participants and the refereeing panel considers the interference unintentional, when determining the finishing positions this participant is placed behind those participants whom they interfered with but ahead of those participants who were not affected by the interference.

If the interference created by a participant is recognized by the refereeing panel as intentional and the participant improved their position in the race, they are deprived of a prize place.

If a horse finishes outside the racing track boundaries, it is deprived of a prize place.

If a horse was assisted by another horse that was not participating in the race, it is deprived of a prize place.

## V. Responsibility for Violations.

For violations of the race rules, trainers and riders bear responsibility in accordance with these rules.

Violations are classified both by the type of prohibited action and by severity:

- **minor** – violations that do not affect the results of the race, do not pose a danger to participants, and do not cause damage to the violator, their horse, other participants, the racetrack, or spectators, but interfere with the proper conduct of the race;
- **significant** – violations that affect the results of the race;
- **gross** – violations that significantly affect the results of the race, pose danger to participants, or cause damage to the violator, their horse, other participants, the racetrack, or spectators.

Gross violations include crossing, using a whip on another horse or participant, and forcing another horse aside.

Control over compliance with the rules during the competition and the application of sanctions to violators is carried out by the Main Refereeing Panel of the competition.

The Main Refereeing Panel has the right to apply the following sanctions for violations of the rules:

- for minor violations – verbal remarks, warnings, or severe warnings;
- for significant violations – deprivation of a prize place;
- for gross violations – deprivation of the horse’s prize place, disqualification of the jockey, and possible imposition of a fine on the owner and trainer.

The refereeing panel also has the right to issue warnings to jockeys and trainers for actions not mentioned in the rules but contrary to the spirit of sport and the moral and ethical principles of the competition.

For deliberate injury to horses, bodily harm to participants during the competition, or in the event that a deliberately intentional loss for personal gain is established, the jockey is disqualified and the horse is deprived of its prize place.

## **VI. Decision of the Main Refereeing Panel.**

The result of the race may be appealed in writing within one hour after its completion.

The final decision is made collectively by a majority vote. The decision of the Main Refereeing Panel is considered final and is not subject to appeal.