

BETTING WITH BOOKMAKERS

IT'S EASY

The colourful competition between Bookmaker and punter is an atmosphere unique to a racecourse, and is an experience that should not be missed. No matter how big or small the bet, a Bookmaker will be happy to take you on!

Some newcomers are hesitant to place a bet with Bookmakers at a racecourse or even in their betting shops, believing they are only there for the big punters. This is far from the truth. You do not have to be a big punter to place a bet with a Bookmaker. Bookmakers are also happy to answer any of your enquiries regarding odds. All you have to do is ask.

HAVING A BET WITH A BOOKMAKER

In a horse race, whilst all horses have a chance, not all horses are considered equally likely to win – that is what makes betting on the races so exciting.

Bookmakers give their assessment of a horse's chance in a race by putting up their betting market or odds display. It is to the punter's advantage to have an idea of what is a good price for their selection, and to place their wager with the Bookmaker who has the best odds on offer.

Unlike some other forms of betting, placing a bet with a Bookmaker guarantees a fixed payout return - that's if your selection wins of course!

A Bookmaker's betting board displays the odds that the Bookmaker is offering for a horse in that particular race. For example, a "5" beside a horse's name on a Bookmaker's board means they are offering a price of five rand for that horse to win (odds of 5 to 1).

For example, if you bet R1 on that horse and it wins, you will receive R5 when you return your betting ticket to the Bookmaker, representing a figure of the R1 you placed on the horse and the R5 you won from the Bookmaker. All horseracing bets are subject to 6 percent punters tax on the winning amount. In this case, R5 is your winning amount, which is subject to tax of 30 cents.

KNOW WHAT YOU'LL GET, WHEN YOU BET

When you bet with a Bookmaker you know what you are getting. You are not betting "blind". By looking at the Bookmaker's board you know exactly how much to outlay to win a certain amount. For example, if the price on the board is 3/1 and you invest R1 with a Bookmaker, if the horse wins your return will be R4 (your R3 you won plus the R1 you staked). If the price is R5.50, your return for a R1 would be R6.50 or for R10, it would be R65.00. If you fancy a long shot at 50/1, then for a R10 investment your return, if the horse wins, will be R510.00.

The Bookmaker will continue to bet the prices displayed until the amount they wish to lay against each runner is reached. The Bookmaker then shortens (reduces) the price

and lengthens (extends) the price of other horses in an attempt to balance his book.

Bookmakers will take bets ranging from R5 to thousands of rands.

To bet with a Bookmaker you need only invest the amount you want to spend.

TYPES OF BETTING

Win Only

A Bookmaker will accept bets only on horses picked to come first. So, if you bet R1 on Pocket Power at 8/1 (odds of 8 to 1) your investment is R1, and if he wins, you collect R9 from the Bookmaker (R1 you invested, plus the R8 you have won).

Place Only

A Bookmaker will accept place bets i.e. bets on horses picked to run first, second or third. This is easier than picking the winner and the dividends offered by the Bookmaker, although sometimes unrelated to the win dividend, are usually accessed at approximately 16% of the win odds. Place betting rules vary according to the number of horses in the field so be sure to check the rules before having a place bet.

Double Bets

A Bookmaker displays odds for all runners in each race at a meeting. To lay a double bet, you need to select horses to win any two races. If Pocket Power is in Race 1 at a price of 8/1, and Dancer's Daughter is in Race 3 at 5/1, and you back them both to win in a double, your dividend if they both win will be R53. This represents R1 for both horses to win with the odds displayed, then multiplied 9 x 6 which is 54, minus 1 which equals 53.

Check out www.bookies.co.za for the Outlet Index to find a Bookie in your area!

