

# Clerk of the Course

## Summary

A Clerk of the Course is a senior racecourse official responsible for the safe preparation, management, and presentation of the racecourse on raceday. The role ensures that racing is conducted in accordance with the Rules of Racing, with responsibility for ground conditions, track layout, safety measures, and stakeholder communication. The Clerk of the Course works closely with officials, racecourse teams, trainers, jockeys, and regulatory bodies to balance safety, fairness, and the practical delivery of racing.

## Core Skills

- Racecourse and ground management expertise: assessment and preparation of turf, track surfaces, and going conditions
- Risk assessment and safety management: identifying and mitigating risks to horses, riders, and staff
- Regulatory knowledge: strong understanding of the Rules of Racing and safety protocols
- Decision-making under pressure: confident judgement in changing weather or track conditions
- Communication and stakeholder management: clear liaison with officials, trainers, jockeys, and regulators
- Leadership and coordination: overseeing ground staff, contractors, and raceday operations
- Attention to detail: accuracy in inspections, reporting, and compliance documentation
- Problem-solving and adaptability: responding effectively to unforeseen issues on raceday

## Training

- Typically requires significant experience in racecourse operations, grounds management, or racing regulation
- Completion of mandatory Clerk of the Course training and accreditation, including:
  - Course inspection and going assessment
  - Track safety and obstacle management (for jump racing)
  - Raceday procedures and emergency planning
  - Ongoing professional development covering:
    - Turf and surface science
    - Weather monitoring and drainage systems
    - Health, safety, and welfare standards
    - Updates to the Rules of Racing
  - Regular assessments and continued accreditation are required to remain licensed



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## Pay

- Usually, a salaried position employed by a racecourse
- Salary can vary depending on:
  - Size and profile of the racecourse
  - Level of responsibility (flat, jump, or dual-purpose tracks)
  - Experience and seniority
- Typical earnings range from mid-level professional salaries to senior operational roles at major racecourses
- The role may include additional responsibilities outside raceday, including course maintenance planning and regulatory reporting