

## **HARNESS RACING RULES OF THE RACE - CHAPTER 24**

### ***ARCI-024-005 PURPOSE***

To describe the requirements and the procedures for the running of a race.

Adopted in Version 1.4 ARCI 8/27/02 NAPRA 10/2/02

### ***ARCI-024-010 DECLARATIONS AND DRAWING***

#### **A. Declarations**

- (1) Unless otherwise specified in the conditions, the declaration time shall be as follows:
  - (a) Extended pari-mutuel race meetings, \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.
  - (b) All other race meetings, \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.
- (2) The time when declarations close will be considered to be local time at the track where the race is being contested.
- (3) No horse shall be permitted to start in more than one race on any one racing day. Races decided by more than one heat are considered a single race.
- (4) The association shall provide a locked box with an aperture through which declarations shall be deposited.
- (5) The presiding judge shall be in charge of the declaration box.
- (6) Just prior to opening of the box at extended pari-mutuel race meetings where futurities, stakes, early closing or late closing events are on the program, the presiding judge shall check with the racing secretary to ascertain if any declarations by mail, telegraph, facsimile machine or otherwise, are in the office and not deposited in the entry box, and shall see that they are declared and drawn in the proper event. At other race meetings, the presiding judge shall ascertain if any such declarations have been received by the racing secretary and shall see that they are properly declared and drawn.

#### **B. Drawing**

- (1) The entry box shall be opened at the advertised time by the presiding judge, who shall ensure that at least one horseman or an official representative of the horsemen is present. No owner or agent for a horse with a declaration in the entry box shall be denied the privilege of being present. Under the supervision of the presiding judge, all entries shall be listed, the eligibility verified, preference ascertained, starters selected and post positions drawn. If it is necessary to reopen any race, public announcement shall be made at least twice and the box reopened to a definite time.
- (2) Subject to Commission approval, at non-extended race meetings in the event of the absence or incapacity of the presiding judge, the functions enumerated above may be performed by a person designated by said judge, for whose acts and conduct said judge shall be wholly responsible. If a substitution is made as herein provided, the name and address of the person so substituting shall be entered in the Judges' Book.
- (3) At extended race meetings in the event of the absence or incapacity of the presiding judge, the functions enumerated above may be performed by one or more associate judges who all have been designated by the presiding judge, prior to the start of the

race meeting, in the form of a written notice to the Commission and to the association conducting the race meeting. A record shall be kept in the Judges' Book showing the name of the individual who performed such functions on each day of the race meeting.

- (4) In races of a duration of more than one dash or heat at pari-mutuel race meetings, the judges may draw post positions from the stand for succeeding dashes or heats.
- (5) Declarations by mail, telegraph, facsimile machine or telephone actually received and evidence of which is deposited in the box before the time specified to declare in, shall be drawn in the same manner as the others. Such drawings shall be final. Mail, telegraph, facsimile machine and telephone declarations must state the name and address of the owner or lessee; the name, color, sex, sire and dam of the horse; the driver's name and racing colors; the date of last start.
- (6) The racing secretary shall check the eligibility of the declaration including the number of starts, firsts, seconds, thirds, earnings and best winning time for the current year; and the event or events in which the horse is to be entered.
- (7) Failure to declare as required shall be considered a withdrawal from the event.
- (8) After declaration to start has been made no horse shall be withdrawn except by permission of the judges. A fine, not to exceed \_\_\_\_, or suspension may be imposed on the party for withdrawing a horse without permission. The horse may be suspended.
- (9) Where the person making the declaration fails to honor it and there is no opportunity for a hearing by the judges, this penalty may be imposed by a Commission representative after a hearing.
- (10) Drawings shall be final unless there is conclusive evidence that a horse properly declared was omitted from the race through the error of the association or its agent or employee in which event the horse shall be added and the race shall be re-drawn, provided the error is discovered prior to scratch time or the printing of the program, whichever is sooner.
- (11) In the event there are two tiers of horses, the withdrawing of a horse that has drawn or earned a position in the front tier shall not affect the position of the horses that have drawn or earned positions in the second tier, except as provided for in handicap claiming races. Whenever a horse is drawn from any tier, horses on the outside move in to fill up the vacancy. When there is only one trailer, it may start from any position in the second tier. When there is more than one trailer, they must start from inside any horse with a higher post position.

#### C. Qualifying Races

- (1) Qualifying races shall be held according to the demand as determined by the Commission.
- (2) Qualifying standards shall be set at each track by the racing secretary and the judges. Standards for trotters will be two seconds slower than pacers.
- (3) At all extended pari-mutuel race meetings declarations for overnight events shall be governed by the following:

The Association of Racing Commissioners International  
Model Rules of Racing

- (a) Before racing at a chosen gait, a horse must go a qualifying race at that gait under the supervision of a licensed judge and acquire at least one clean charted line by a licensed charter. In order to provide complete and accurate chart information on time and beaten lengths, a standard photo finish shall be in use.
  - (b) Any horse that fails to race within \_\_\_ days of its last start must go a qualifying race as set forth in a) above. However, at any race meeting this period can be extended up to \_\_\_ days upon receiving approval of the Commission. The time period allowed shall be calculated from the date of the last race to and including the date of declaration.
  - (c) When a horse has raced at a charted race meeting and then gone on to race meetings where the races are not charted the information from the uncharted lines may be summarized including each start and consolidated in favor of charted lines to include a charted line within the last \_\_\_ days before the horse is permitted to race. The consolidated line shall carry date, place, time, driver, finish, track condition and distance.
  - (d) The judges may permit a horse to qualify by means of a timed workout consistent with the time of the races in which the horse will compete in the event adequate competition is not available for a qualifying race.
  - (e) When, for the purpose of qualifying the driver, a horse is declared in to race in a qualifying race, its performance shall be applicable to the horse's eligibility to race and the chart line shall be marked to indicate driver qualifying.
  - (f) If a horse takes a win race record in either a qualifying race or a matinee race, such record must be prefaced with the letter "Q" wherever it appears.
- (4) Any horse regularly wearing hobbles shall not be permitted to be declared to race without them and any horse regularly racing without hobbles shall not be permitted to wear hobbles in a race without first having qualified with this equipment change. In addition to the foregoing, any horse regularly wearing hobbles and which is not on a qualifying list or Judges' List, is allowed one start without hobbles in a qualifying race; and this single performance shall not affect its eligibility to race with hobbles in a subsequent event to which it is declared.
- (5) A horse making a break in each of two consecutive races must qualify unless the breaks were equipment breaks or caused by interference.
- (6) A horse must qualify if:
- (a) it is distanced for reasons other than interference, broken equipment or breaking stride; or
  - (b) it does not finish for reasons other than interference or broken equipment.
- (7) A charted line containing only a break or breaks caused by interference or an equipment break shall be considered a satisfactory charted line.
- (8) The judges shall use the interference break mark only when they have reason to believe that the horse was interfered with by another horse or the equipment of another horse.

#### D. Coupled Entries

When the starters in a race include \_\_\_\_\_ or more horses owned by the same person they shall be coupled as an "entry" and a wager on one horse in the entry shall be a wager on all horses in the entry. If the race is split in two or more divisions, horses in an entry shall be seeded. The above provisions shall also apply to elimination heats. The person making the declaration of a horse that qualifies as a coupled entry with another horse entered in the same event shall be responsible to designate the word "entry" on the declaration blank. The presiding judge shall be responsible for coupling horses. In addition to the foregoing, horses separately owned or trained may be coupled as an entry where it is necessary to do so to protect the public interest for the purpose of pari-mutuel wagering only. However, where this is done entries may not be rejected.

#### E. Also Eligibles

Not more than two horses may be drawn as also eligibles for a race and their positions shall be drawn along with the starters in the race. In the event one or more horses are excused by the judges, the also eligible horse or horses shall race and take the post position drawn by the horse that it replaces, except in handicap races. In handicap races the also eligible horses shall take the place of the horse that it replaces in the event that the handicap is the same. In the event the handicap is different, the also eligible horse shall take the position on the outside of horses with a similar handicap. No horse may be added to a race as an also eligible unless the horse was drawn as such at the time declarations closed. No horse may be barred from a race to which it is otherwise eligible by reason of its preference due to the fact that it has been drawn as an also eligible. The owner or trainer of such a horse shall be notified that the horse is to race and it shall be posted at the racing secretary's office. A horse moved into the race from the also eligible list cannot be withdrawn except by permission of the judges. All horses on the also eligible list and not moved in to race by (Time) on the day of the race shall be released.

#### F. Preference Dates

Preference dates shall be given to horses in all overnight events at extended pari-mutuel tracks in accordance with the following based on the date of the horse's last previous start in a purse race during the current year is its preference date with the following exceptions:

- (1) The preference date on a horse that has drawn to race and has been scratched is the date of the race from which scratched.
- (2) When a horse is racing for the first time in the current year, the date of the first declaration into a purse race shall be considered its preference date.
- (3) Wherever horses have equal preference in a race, the actual preference of said horses in relation to one another shall be determined from the most recent previous starts which do not result in equal preference.
- (4) When an overnight race has been re-opened because it did not fill, all eligible horses declared into the race prior to the re-opening shall receive preference over other horses subsequently declared, irrespective of the actual preference dates.

Adopted in Version 1.4 ARCI 8/27/02 NAPRA 10/2/02

## **ARCI-024-015 TIMING AND RECORDS**

### **A. Timing**

- (1) Time trial performances are permitted subject to the following:
  - (a) Test samples may be required for all horses starting for a time performance.
  - (b) An approved electric timer is required for all time performances. In the event of a failure of a timer during the progress of a time performance, no time trial performance record will be obtained.
  - (c) Time trial performances are permitted only during the course of a regular race meeting with the regular officials in the judges' stand.
  - (d) Time trial performances are limited for two-year-olds who go to equal or beat 2.10, and three-year-olds and over who go to equal or beat 2.05.
  - (e) Time trial performances shall be designated by preceding the time with two capital "T"s.
  - (f) When a horse performs against time, it shall be proper to allow other horses to accompany it in the performance but not to precede it, or be harnessed with it, or in any way attached to it.
  - (g) A break during a time trial is a losing effort and a losing performance shall not constitute a record.
- (2) The time of each heat or dash shall be accurately taken by two timers or an approved electric timing device, in which case there shall be one timer, and placed in the record in minutes, seconds and fifths of seconds, and upon the decision of each heat the time thereof shall be publicly announced or admitted to the record. When the timers fail to act, no time shall be announced or recorded.
- (3) The time shall be taken from the first horse leaving the point from which the distance of the race is measured until the winner reaches the wire.
- (4) The leading horse shall be timed and its time only shall be announced. No horse shall obtain a win race record by reason of the disqualification of another horse unless the horse's actual race time can be determined by photo finish or electronic timing.
- (5) In the case of a dead heat, the time shall constitute a record for the horses making the dead heat and both shall be considered winners.

### **B. Records**

- (1) In order that performances thereon may be recognized or published as official, every association shall have filed with the Commission the certificate of a duly licensed civil engineer or land surveyor that the track has been measured from wire to wire three feet out from the inside hub rail or other fixed marker and certifying exactly the result of such measurement. Each track shall be measured and re-certified in the event of any changes or relocation of the hub rail or other fixed marker.
- (2) A record will be the fastest time made by a horse in a heat or dash which it won, or in a performance against time.
- (3) No time record shall be recognized as a world record if obtained on a track without an inside hub rail or other fixed marker.

- (4) In any case of alleged error in the record, announcement or publication of the time made by a horse, the time so questioned shall not be changed to favor said horse or owner, except upon the sworn statement of the judges and timers who officiated in the race.
- (5) If a horse takes a win-race record in a qualifying race such record must be prefaced with the letter "Q" wherever it appears.
- (6) For racing purposes, horses with foreign earnings shall such earnings converted to U.S. dollars at the rate as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of the earnings and credited to the horse's official records. A winning performance at a mile or greater distance, expressed at a mile rate, shall receive recognition as the horse's record.
- (7) Any person found guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation of time or the alteration of the record thereof, in any race, shall be fined, suspended, expelled or a combination thereof and time declared not a record.

Adopted in Version 1.4 ARCI 8/27/02 NAPRA 10/2/02

Version 1.4 to 2.0 ARCI 4/26/03 NAPRA 4/14/03: Amended new rule language

### **ARCI-024-020 POSTPONEMENT AND CANCELLATION**

In case of unfavorable weather or other unavoidable cause, associations with the consent of the Judges shall postpone or cancel races in accordance with the following rules.

- (1) Added money events shall be postponed and rescheduled.
- (2) An early closing event or a late closing event that cannot be raced during the scheduled race meeting shall be declared off and the total of nomination, sustaining and starting payments divided equally among the owners of eligibles in proportion to the number of horses declared to start.
- (3) An early closing event or late closing event that has been started, but remains unfinished on the last day of the scheduled race meeting shall be declared ended and the full purse divided according to the summary.
- (4) Stakes and futurities should be raced where advertised and the race meeting may be extended to accomplish this. Any stake or futurity that has been started, but which remains unfinished on the last day of the scheduled race meeting shall be declared ended and the full purse divided according to the summary, except where the association elects to extend the race meeting to complete the race. Horses that are scratched after a heat and before the race is declared finished shall not participate in purse distributions for subsequent heats in the event the race is called off and declared finished.
- (5) Unless otherwise provided in the conditions, in order to transfer stakes and futurities to another race meeting, unanimous consent must be obtained from the association and all those having eligibles in the event.
- (6) Overnight events may be postponed and rescheduled within two days, or may be cancelled if circumstances or weather conditions warrant. Postponed overnight events not raced within two days shall then be cancelled.
- (7) If the track conditions are questionable for the warming up or racing of horses, the judges shall convene a race meeting with the representative of the drivers and trainers and a representative of management. If required by the judges and the

representative of the drivers and trainers shall conduct a secret ballot of the drivers and trainers of horses participating in that program of racing to determine whether racing should be conducted. If the vote of the drivers and trainers determines that more than \_\_\_ percent vote against racing, the card shall be cancelled. If more than \_\_\_ percent and less than \_\_\_ percent vote to race, trainers will be allowed to withdraw horses without penalty. If more than \_\_\_ percent vote to race, the regular rules of withdrawal and scratching of horses will apply.

- (8) Where a race is postponed pursuant to any of the foregoing provisions only those horses originally declared in to the postponed event shall to be eligible to race. Where a race is postponed and moved to another location, horses previously declared may withdraw without penalty.

Adopted in Version 1.4 ARCI 8/27/02 NAPRA 10/2/02

### ***ARCI-024-025 HORSES PERMITTED TO RACE***

- (1) A horse shall be eligible to be declared in to race provided the following conditions have been met:
- (a) the eligibility fee, which shall become due and payable when a horse makes its first start in any type of race in a calendar year, has been paid to the United States Trotting Association/Standardbred Canada, or a valid eligibility certificate has been granted for the horse by the United States Trotting Association and its Standardbred Canada eligibility fee has been paid.
  - (b) the horse has been registered in the current ownership with the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society or the United States Trotting Association;
  - (c) if leased, a copy of the lease which is acceptable to the commission is on file with United States Trotting Association/Standardbred Canada;
  - (d) the horse has qualified in accordance with the rules prior to the time of closing of;
  - (e) not more than \_\_\_ days prior to the time of closing of declarations, the horse was credited with a satisfactory charted past performance line obtained in a purse, qualifying race conducted at a charted race meeting;
  - (f) the horse is at least two years of age to race at any race meeting but not older than \_\_\_ years of age;
  - (g) the horse has been denerved by any method other then posterior digetal neurectomy. The decision at any given time whether the horse has been denerved shall be the Commission veterinarian's.
  - (h) if a horse is a spayed mare, that fact is noted on the program, registration certificate, eligibility certificate and the list of those horses posted on the horsemen's bulletin board, and the United States Trotting Association/Standardbred Canada has been notified in writing by the owner, trainer or veterinarian;
  - (i) the horse does not have a trachea tube or a hole in its throat for a trachea tube;
  - (j) the horse has unimpaired vision in at least one eye;
  - (k) the horse has been lip tattooed, freeze branded or identified by other approved methods in accordance with the constitution and by-laws and regulations of the United States Trotting Association/Canadian Standardbred Horse Society.

The Association of Racing Commissioners International  
Model Rules of Racing

- (2) If a horse participates in a race or event after having been declared into a subsequent race or event it shall be ruled ineligible to the subsequent race or event and scratched if its performance in the initial race or event makes it ineligible under the rules. If the race or event from which the horse is scratched is an added money event, any starting fee paid or payable shall be forfeited.
- (3) Any participant who declares, or causes to be declared, an ineligible horse to start shall be guilty of a violation of the rules and subject to disciplinary action by the judges. If after declarations close, and prior to the race, the judges become aware that an ineligible horse has been declared, they shall immediately scratch the horse and starting fees, if applicable, shall be forfeited.
- (4) If the ownership of a horse changes, such horse may start under the new ownership not more than (Number of Times) without reasonable evidence being given to the judges that the registration certificate has been forwarded to the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society or the United States Trotting Association.
- (5) Any participant skipping or omitting transfers of ownership of any horse shall be guilty of a violation and subject to disciplinary action.
- (6) For the purposes of these rules, the term eligibility certificate shall refer to a printed document or its electronically produced equivalent.
- (7) Horses not under lease must race in the name of the bona fide owner unless the horse is leased in which case they must race under the name of the leasee.

Adopted in Version 1.4 ARCI 8/27/02 NAPRA 10/2/02

### **ARCI-024-030 EQUIPMENT**

#### **A. Sulkies**

All racing sulkies must meet the standards as approved by the United States Trotting Association prior to being used in any sanctioned races.

#### **B. Other Equipment**

Any change in equipment must be approved by the judges and be shown on the program

- (1) Any owner or trainer who wishes to change any equipment or hobbles on a horse from one race to another shall apply in writing no later than at the time of declaration to the judges.
- (2) No horse will be permitted in a race to wear any type of equipment that covers, protrudes, or extends beyond its nose or that in any way could interfere with the true placing of the horse.

Adopted in Version 1.4 ARCI 8/27/02 NAPRA 10/2/02

Version 1.4 to 2.0 ARCI 4/26/03 NAPRA 4/14/03: Modify rule language

### **ARCI-024-035 RACING RULES**

#### **A. Under Supervision of Starter**

- (1) Horses shall be under supervision of the starter from the time they arrive on the track until the start of the race.
- (2) All horses shall parade from the paddock to the starting post, and no driver shall dismount without the permission of the starter. Attendants may not care for the horses during the parade except by permission of the starter.



- (3) After entering the track not more than \_\_\_\_ minutes shall be consumed in the parade of the horses to the post except in cases of unavoidable delay.
- (4) Horses awaiting post time may not be held on the backstretch in excess of \_\_\_\_ minutes, except when delayed by an emergency.

#### B. Fair Start

The starter shall give such orders and take such measures that do not conflict with the rules of racing, as are necessary to secure a fair start.

#### C. Starting

- (1) The starter shall have control of the formation of the parade until giving the word "go."
- (2) After one or two preliminary warming up scores, the starter shall notify the drivers to come to the starting gate. During or before the parade the drivers must be informed as to the number of scores permitted.
- (3) The horses shall be brought to the starting gate as near one-quarter of a mile before the start as the track will permit.
- (4) Allowing sufficient time so that the speed of the gate can be increased gradually to ensure a fair and safe start.
- (5) The starting point will be a point marked at a designated spot not less than 200 feet from the first turn. The starter shall give the word "go" at the starting point.
- (6) When a speed has been reached in the course of a start there shall be no decrease except in the case of a recall.

#### D. Recall Rules

- (1) In case of a recall, a light plainly visible to the drivers shall be flashed and a recall sounded. In the case of a recall, whenever possible, the starter shall leave the wings of the gate extended and gradually slow the speed of the gate to assist in stopping the field of horses. In an emergency, however, the starter shall use his/her discretion to close the wings of the gate.
- (2) There shall be no recall after the word "go" has been give unless there is a mechanical failure of the starting gate.
- (3) Any horse, regardless of its position or an accident, shall be deemed a starter from the time it entered into the starter's control unless dismissed by the starter.
- (4) The starter shall attempt to dispatch all horses away in position and on gait but there shall be no recall for a breaking horse after the recall point is passed.
- (5) In the event a horse causes two recalls, it shall be an automatic ruling of the judges that the offending horse be scratched.
- (6) The starter may sound a recall for the following reasons:
  - (a) a horse scores ahead of the gate;
  - (b) there is interference before the word "go" is given;
  - (c) a horse has broken equipment;
  - (d) a horse falls before the word "go" is given;
  - (e) a mechanical failure of the starting gate; or

- (f) a horse comes to the starting gate out of position.
- (7) There shall be a recall pole placed one-eighth of a mile before the starting point, before or at which point, at the discretion of the starter, there may be a recall for a breaking horse or horses not up to the gate. When the recall pole is passed, there shall be no recall for a breaking horse or a horse not up to the gate except as provided in 5 a)-f) above.
- (8) A fine and/or suspension may be applied to any driver for:
  - (a) delaying the start;
  - (b) failure to obey the starter's instructions;
  - (c) rushing ahead of the inside or outside wing of the gate;
  - (d) coming to the starting gate out of position;
  - (e) crossing over before reaching the starting point;
  - (f) interference with another horse or driver during the start; or
  - (g) failure to come up into position and remain in position.

#### E. Starting Gate

- (1) No persons shall be allowed to ride in the starting gate except the starter and the driver or operator and a patrol judge, unless permission has been granted by the Judges.
- (2) Use of the loudspeaker for any purpose other than to give instructions to the drivers is prohibited. The volume shall be no higher than necessary to carry the voice of the starter to the drivers.
- (3) The arms of all starting gates shall be provided with a screen or shield in front of the position for each horse, and such arms shall be perpendicular to the rail.
- (4) The official starter must ensure that the starting gate is in good working order prior to the beginning of each race program.
- (5) The official starter and starting gate driver shall operate the starting gate in a manner consistent with the safe conduct of the race, the safety of the race participants and the safety of the patrons.

#### F. Two-Tiered Races

- (1) In the event there are two tiers of horses, the withdrawing of a horse that has drawn or earned a position in the front tier shall not affect the positions of horses that have drawn or entered positions in the second tier.
- (2) Whenever a horse is drawn from any tier, horses on the outside move in to fill the vacancy. Where a horse has drawn a post position in the second tier, the driver of such horse may elect to score out behind any horse in the front tier so long as it does not interfere with another trailing horse or deprive another trailing horse of a drawn position.
- (3) When there is only one trailer, it may start from any position in the second tier. When there is more than one trailer, they must start from inside any horse with a higher post position.

**G. Horse Deemed a Starter**

Horses shall be deemed to have started when the word "go" is given by the starter and all horses must go the course except in the case of an accident or injury in which it is the opinion of the judges that it is impossible to go the course.

**H. Unmanageable/Bad Acting Horses**

If, in the opinion of the judges and/or the starter, a horse is unmanageable or liable to cause accidents or injury to any other horse or to any driver, it shall be scratched and placed on the judges' list.

**I. Post Positions, Heat Racing**

- (1) The horse winning a heat shall take the inside position in the succeeding heat, unless otherwise specified in the published conditions of the race, and all others shall take their positions in the order they were placed in the prior heat.
- (2) When two or more horses dead heat, their positions shall be determined by lot.

**J. Conduct of the Race**

- (1) A driver shall not commit any of the following acts which are considered violations of driving rules:
  - (a) Change course or position, or swerve in or out, or bear in or out during any part of the race in such a manner as to compel a horse to shorten its stride or cause another driver to change course, take his or her horse back, or pull his/her horse out of its stride.
  - (b) Impede the progress of another horse or cause it to break from its gait.
  - (c) Cross over too sharply in front of another horse or in front of the field.
  - (d) Crowd another horse by 'putting a wheel under it.'
  - (e) Allow another horse to pass needlessly on the inside, or commit any other act that helps another horse to improve its position.
  - (f) Carry another horse out.
  - (g) Take up or slow up in front of other horses so as to cause confusion or interference among the trailing horses.
  - (h) Maintain an outside position without making the necessary effort to improve his/her overall position.
  - (i) Strike or hook wheels with another sulky.
  - (j) Lay off a normal pace and leave a hole when it is well within the horse's capacity to keep the hole closed.
  - (k) Drive in a careless or reckless manner.
  - (l) Fail to set, maintain or properly contest a pace comparable to the class in which the driver is racing considering the horse's ability, track conditions, weather and circumstances confronted in the race.
- (2) A complaint by a driver of any foul, violation of the rules or other misconduct during a race shall be made immediately after the race to which it relates, unless the driver is prevented from doing so by an accident or injury or other reasonable excuse. A driver desiring to enter a claim of foul, or other complaint of violation of

The Association of Racing Commissioners International  
Model Rules of Racing

the rules, shall make this known to the nearest patrol judge and shall proceed immediately to the paddock telephone to communicate immediately with the judges. The judges shall not cause the official sign to be posted until the matter has been dealt with.

- (3) A driver unless incapacitated shall be guilty of a violation for failure to report any infraction by another driver against him/her that occurred during a race, or for lodging a complaint which the judges deem to be frivolous.
- (4) If a violation is committed by a person driving a horse coupled as an entry the judges may set both horses back if, in their opinion, the violation may have affected the finish of the race, otherwise penalties may be applied individually.
- (5) In the case of interference, collision, or violation of any rules, the offending horse may be placed back one or more positions in that heat or dash, and in the event of such collisions, interference or violation preventing any horse from finishing the heat or dash, the offending horse may be disqualified from receiving any winnings and the driver may be fined or suspended. If a horse is set back, it must be placed behind the horse with which it interfered. If an offending horse has interfered with a horse involved in a dead heat and the offending horse is set back, it must be placed behind the horses in the dead heat.
- (6) If the judges believe that a horse is, or has been driven with design to prevent it winning a race or races, they shall consider it a violation by the driver.
- (7) If the judges believe that a horse has been driven in an inconsistent manner, they shall consider it a violation.
- (8) If the judges believe that a horse has been driven in an unsatisfactory manner due to lack of effort or a horse has been driven in an unsatisfactory manner for any other reason, they shall consider it a violation.
- (9) If a horse is suspected to have choked or bled during a race, the driver and/or trainer of that horse is required to report this to the judges immediately after the race. This information shall be contained in the official past performance line of that horse.
- (10) If, in the opinion of the judges, a driver is for any reason unfit or incompetent to drive, or is reckless in his/her conduct and endangers the safety of horses or other drivers in a race, he/she shall be removed and another driver substituted at any time and the offending driver may be subject to disciplinary action.
- (11) A driver must be mounted in the sulky at all times during the race or the horse shall be placed as a non-finisher.
- (12) Shouting or other improper conduct in a race is forbidden.
- (13) Drivers shall keep both feet in the stirrups during the post parade and from the time the horses are brought to the starting gate until the race has been completed. Drivers shall be permitted to remove a foot from the stirrups during the course of the race solely for the purpose of pulling ear plugs and once same have been pulled the foot must be placed back into the stirrup. Drivers who violate this rule may be subject to disciplinary action.
- (14) The use of any goading device, chain, spur, mechanical or electrical device or any other device other than a whip as allowed in the rules, upon any horse, shall constitute a violation.

The Association of Racing Commissioners International  
Model Rules of Racing

- (15) The possession of any mechanical or electrical goading device on the grounds of an association shall constitute a violation.
- (16) The judges/ judges shall have the authority to disallow the use of any equipment or harness that they feel is unsafe or not in the best interests of racing.
- (17) Whipping a horse by using the whip below the level of the shafts or the seat of the sulky or between the legs of the horse shall be a violation.
- (18) When a horse breaks from its gait, it shall be considered a violation on the part of the driver for:
  - (a) Failure to take the horse to the outside of other horses when clearance exists.
  - (b) Failure to properly attempt to pull the horse to its gait.
  - (c) Failure to lose ground while on a break.
  - (d) If no violation has been committed, the horse shall not be set back unless a contending horse on his/her gait is lapped on the hindquarter of the breaking horse at the finish. The judges may set any horse back one or more places if in their judgment, any of the above violations have been committed, and the driver may be penalized.
- (19) If, in the opinion of the judges, a driver allows a horse to break for the purpose of losing a race, the driver shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- (20) The horse whose nose reaches the finish line first is the winner. If there is a dead heat for first, both horses shall be considered winners. In races having more than one heat or dash, where two horses are tied in the summary, the winner of the longer dash or heat shall be entitled to the trophy. Where the dashes or heats are of the same distance and the horses are tied in the summary, the winner of the faster dash or heat shall be entitled to the trophy. Where the dashes or heats are of the same time, both horses shall be considered winners and the entitlement of the trophy will be decided by lot.
- (21) If, during the preliminary scores or during a race a driver is unseated in such a manner that he or she falls to the ground, the judges may direct the driver to report to the infirmary or to the emergency department of the nearest hospital for examination and receive written clearance to continue with driving assignments on that day of racing.
- (22) If a horse is to warm up it must go its last warm-up on the same racing strip as it will compete on unless excused by the judges.
- (23) If for any cause other than being interfered with, or broken equipment, a horse fails to finish after starting a race, that horse shall be ruled out of any subsequent heat of the same event. If it is alleged that a horse failed to finish a race because of broken equipment, this fact must be reported to the paddock judge who shall make an examination to verify the allegation and report the findings to the judges.
- (24) Multiple Disqualifications. Should the judges determine more than one incident of interference is warranted in a race, they shall proceed as follows:
  - (a) Resolve any/all incidents involving “lapped on breaks” at the finish,
  - (b) Initiate placings (where warranted) in the order in which they occur during the actual live race from the start to the finish of the race,

- (c) Make a conscious effort to place and maintain as placed, every and all horse(s) placed behind others for interference.

#### K. Use of the Whip

- (1) In any/all Standardbred races, drivers will be allowed whips not to exceed four (4) feet in total length.
- (2) A snapper ( popper) of any kind is prohibited.
- (3) Under the authority of the Presiding Judge, all whips are subject to inspection and measurement. Alteration of whips, in any manner, shall be considered a prohibited practice.
- (4) Drivers must control their horses at all times when on the racetrack. All drivers shall keep one (1) line in each separate hand. Both hands shall stay in front of the driver's body with a line in each separate hand. The handholds must be adjusted so as to be taut, at all times, from the starter's call to the gate through the word "GO" until the finish of the race.
- (5) The whip shall be used in a conventional manner by holding the handle area at all times. Whipping is limited to wrist action with minimal elbow and/or shoulder movement.
- (6) Whipping below the shaft(s), including but not limited to the stifle area, is prohibited.
- (7) The following actions shall be considered as excessive and/or indiscriminate:
  - (a) Whipping a horse during post parade, scoring down or after the finish of the race;
  - (b) Abusive use of the whip;
  - (c) Striking any part of the horse under the tail and/or between the legs;
  - (d) Whipping a horse that is exhausted and/or not advancing through the field;
  - (e) Causing visible injury, or;
  - (f) Use of any object or stimulating device and/or application.
- (8) Violations of any of these provisions may result in:
  - (a) Fines;
  - (b) Suspensions- including minor and/or major;
  - (c) Referral to the Commission or Regulatory Agency;
  - (d) Disqualification from a race for both purse and pari-mutuel purposes.

#### L. Hubrail

If at a racetrack which does not have a continuous solid inside hub rail, a horse or part of the horse's sulky leaves the course by going inside the hub rail or other demarcation which constitutes the inside limits of the course, the offending horse shall be placed one or more positions where, in the opinion of the judges, the action gave the horse an unfair advantage over other horses in the race, or the action helped the horse improve its position in the race. In addition, when an act of interference causes a horse or part of the horse's sulky to cross the inside limits of the course, and the horse is placed by the judges, the offending horse shall be placed behind the horse with which it interfered.

#### M. Passing Lane

- (1) With the approval of the commission, an association may extend the width of its homestretch up to ten feet inward in relation to the width of the rest of the track.

The Association of Racing Commissioners International  
Model Rules of Racing

- (2) Horses using the passing lane must first have complete clearance of the pylons. Any horse or sulky running over the pylons and/or going to the inside of the pylons to clear shall be disqualified.
- (3) When a passing lane exists, a horse may not enter the passing lane except under the following conditions.
  - (a) When entering the final homestretch run.
  - (b) For the purpose of attempting to improve the horse's position.

Adopted in Version 1.4 ARCI 8/27/02 NAPRA 10/2/02

Version 1.4 to 2.0 ARCI 4/26/03 NAPRA 4/14/03: Modify rule format

Version 4.1 to 4.2 ARCI 3/26/2008 Added language regarding multiple disqualifications

Version 4.4 to 4.5 ARCI 4/23/09 Amended language: whip rule