

The Racing Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by PM Committee Chair, Mark Loewe.

1. Roll call was taken by T.C. Lane. Present were: Mark Loewe, Chris Antonacci, Dave Bianconi, Barry Brown, Stacy Cahill, Lenny Calderone, John Hensley Jr., Mike Kane, Peter Koch, Tom Leasure, John Matarazzo, Chris McErlean, Jim Miller, Steve O'Toole, Scott Peine, Joe Faraldo, Sam Beegle, John Brennan, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Corey Callahan, Jay Cross, George Ducharme, Rich Gillock, Jeff Gregory, Jerry Haws, Sam Hedington, Jacquie Ingrassia, Russ MacKinnon, Joe Pennacchio, Ray Schnittker, Jordan Stratton, Skip Hoovler, Gabe Wand, Dan Ater, Casey Leonard, Don Marean, Steve McCoy, Dr. John Mossbarger, Jim Reynolds, Royal Roland, Mike Sweeney, Steve Oldford, Dick Brandt Jr., Mark Ford, Dave Siegel and Dein Spriggs.

2. **Regulatory Committee Update**
 - T.C. Lane updated the group on the USTA clerk and charting school and Official's Continuing Education.
 - A Clerk and charting school was held May 8-10, 2018.
 - 17 people, including 13 who were attending for the first time and four who were taking it as a refresher course, participated in the USTA's clerk and charting school held in the home office and an on-site instruction held at Scioto Downs. The school was conducted by USTA Racetrack Operations and Licensing Manager Michele Kopiec. Included in the 13, two members of the USTA staff took the course as well.
 - The 17 students who attended came from eight different states – Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. After completion of the school and licensing process, participants were put right to work in the stand.
 - Officials Schools, Continuing Education
 - The USTA continues to participate in the Racing Officials Accreditation Program, of which TC Lane and Michele Kopiec are members of the board. Most recently, John Campbell was selected to serve as Director-At-Large on the ROAP Board.
 - In the fall of 2018, two Continuing Education courses were conducted by the USTA. The first was held at Dayton Raceway in October and the second at the Meadows in November. As a requirement to maintain accredited status, an official must complete 16 hours of CE every two years. The next full program for harness officials will be held in 2020 at the University of Louisville.
 - Joseph Faraldo updated the group on amateur driver licensing, noting that he will be seeking advice from amateur driving clubs to establish a definition and criteria for an amateur license.

- John Campbell, Chairman of the Universal Rules Committee, discussed the rule change proposals presented to the USTA by the group in an effort to unify racing rules across each jurisdiction.

3. 2019 Proposed Rule Changes The committee considered and acted upon the proposals as follows:

- Proposal #1 – Accepted
- Proposal #2 – Accepted
- Proposal #3 – Rejected
- Proposal #4 – Rejected
- Proposal #5 – Accepted
- Proposal #6 – Rejected
- Proposal #7 – Rejected
- Proposal #8 – Accepted
- Proposal #9 – Rejected
- Proposal #10 – Rejected
- Proposal #11 – Accepted
- Proposal #12 – Accepted
- Proposal #13 – Accepted
- Proposal #14 – Accepted
- Proposal #15 – Accepted
- Proposal #16 – Accepted as amended
- Proposal #17 – Withdrawn
- Proposal #18 – Rejected
- Proposal #19 – Accepted
- Proposal #20 – Accepted
- Proposal #21 – Accepted
- Proposal #22 – Accepted
- Proposal #26 – Accepted

4. TC Lane presented the committee with an update on microchipping for 2019, giving an overview of microchip requirements.

- All 2019 foals are required to be microchipped.
- The USTA, in conjunction with Merck Animal Health, has 11 ID Technicians trained to microchip. DNA samples will continue to be collected at the same time as a horse is chipped.
- By 2021, all horses racing in the U.S. will be identified at USTA member tracks, including fairs, by microchip.
 - All pari-mutuel racetracks have been (or will be) supplied with one complimentary Bluetooth reader. A deep discount will be offered to fairs who wish to purchase readers.
 - Tracks can identify horses with reports in eTrack and Pathway, which have been modified to show microchip numbers.

- Anyone may purchase a reader through the USTA, both a Bluetooth and basic model are available. Both readers display temperature readings upon scanning; the Bluetooth reader is built to integrate into the USTA database via a “Chip ID” mobile app.

5. Fairs Committee Update – Chairman Hoovler update:

- There will again be \$20,000 in Matching Funds Grant monies available for 2019. Applications are due May 1 and are available, with the promotional ideas handout from the sub-committee, on the Director’s Dashboard for all directors. In 2018, just over \$14,300 was awarded. Please provide information to the fairs in your district about applying for available money.
- Once again, the fair committee roundtable discussed the state of racing in each district, including what works and how states worked through difficult scenarios. A big discussion was held about the political landscape and partnering with other agricultural entities such as Farm Bureau.

6. Driver/Trainer Committee Update

- Michele Kopiec updated the group on the newly revised driver/trainer exam, a compilation of work by the exam review committee, consisting of Jeff Gregory, John Brennan, T.C. Lane, and Michele Kopiec. The new exam, which was released on Feb. 1, has both new and updated questions that are more specifically related to current industry trends, including medication and basic horse care. The new format will allow the committee to periodically review test questions and adjust them, if needed. Kopiec also presented a newly formatted driver/trainer application that requires more specific, detailed information regarding an applicant’s background in the industry and includes the written exam fee and a study guide with each new application.
- Steve Oldford gave an update on the USTA Standardbred Driving School, which was held May 30-June 2 at the Mark Ford Training Center and Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY. Twenty (20) participants from 10 different states attended the 19th annual school, kicked off by keynote speaker Mark Loewe. The USTA would like to thank Chubb Insurance, who has contributed \$2,500 each year since the school’s inception in 1999 – totaling more than \$50,000 to date. Thanks also to Mark Ford, Janet Terhune, Tyler Buter, Scott Zeron, and the amateur drivers who have continued to help make the school a success. The school will not be held in 2019, as we strive to make improvements to the overall school plan for the future, incorporating mentorships with trainers.
- Steve Oldford also provided a detailed overview of amateur driving events:
 - Current amateur drivers have consistently played an important role at the driving school where they ride with the students and give encouragement and coaching. Interested students are aligned with an amateur driver mentor to help them pursue driving. Six (6) students from last years’ school are now paired with amateur drivers and others are now owners.
 - Membership and participation in amateur races around the world continue to be popular with racing now available year-round for amateur driving enthusiasts. Twelve

(12) amateur clubs, racing more than 200 races annually, are current USTA Standardbred Driving Club members.

- Both the Florida Amateur Driving Club and the North American Amateur Driver's Association have hosted international driving exchange competitions in which foreign countries send a team to the US and then host the US team in their home country.
 - Thousands of dollars have been raised and donated through amateur driving clubs. From scholarships, veteran's clubs, organizations such as New Vocations and the make a Wish Foundation, civic organizations, and our own with the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, amateur drivers have continued raising generous funds for these and other groups.
 - In 2020, Pompano Park will be hosting the Amateur World Cup, an event held every two years, which has previously been held in countries such as Belgium and Finland.
- Michele Kopiec updated the group on the Racing Under Saddle rule change proposals, as recommended by the RUS Committee. The committee will present two rule change proposals to the Rules Committee for review and voting. First, they propose that pacers, in addition to trotters, be allowed to race under saddle. Second, that horses older than 14 years of age be allowed to participate, as they are now allowed to race in matinees, county fairs and amateur driving races.
 - Mike McNeely, VanGundy Insurance Agency, gave an in-depth overview of the disability income program with accidental death and dismemberment written by VanGundy, underwritten by Chubb insurance. Mike highlighted the various plans along with the options available with each. There are currently 159 participants enrolled in the program. There are no rate changes for 2019. Mike welcomes any and all suggestions to increase participation.

7. Pari-Mutuel Committee Update

- Mark Loewe led the discussion on the use of the passing lane and requested that a survey be sent to track members regarding passing lane use.
- Mike Tanner discussed the feed from United Tote and looks for feedback or questions regarding regression analysis.
- Michael Carter provided a detailed overview of the success of the initiative. Tracking mechanisms have been established to find which wagers work the best for respective tracks.
- Jessica Schroeder gave the group a summary of the 2019 Stakes Guide, including the online version that is published on the USTA website. She also highlighted the behind-the-scenes creation of the guide and how stakes are tied to racing results.
- Dave Siegel discussed technology in racing, including the TrackMaster the virtual stable and the availability of program pages for owners. The automated morning-line is being used for about 56% of races. TrackMaster Rating system was used by five tracks last year. The GPS tracking of horses is something that is coming to horse racing. There are two harness tracks that use Trakus, which is much more expensive. The Tracker offered by TrackMaster can provide an extensive variety of data.

- As there were no other matters to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.