



What Is the USTA?

An overview of the association's services and products

What is the USTA and why join?

These are key questions to those who participate in the sport of harness racing and own or breed Standardbred horses, and although the mission of the association has changed over the years, the services it provides to its members remain substantial.

Origins

FOUNDED in 1939 in New York, the U.S. Trotting Association brought together five organizations that ruled the different facets of racing including regional racing, the breed registry and stakes promotions.

Since 1948 the USTA has been headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. It ruled as the sport's sole regulatory body until state racing commissions took over the functions that govern racing in the 1960s.

Purpose

THE USTA'S role in harness racing is summarized in six areas, each of which serves the sport and its participants in ways state and local organizations cannot.

Breed Registry: The USTA is the sole issuer of registration documents for Standardbred horses in the U.S. All horses must first be registered before being eligible to race in North America, or to subsequently be used in the Standardbred breeding industry. The USTA has agreements with all the major Standardbred breed registries in the world, including Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and Sweden among others, which permit the import and export of registered horses.

Database: The USTA maintains the racing and breeding records of more than 1.4 million horses, drivers, trainers, breeders and owners. This database is an unparalleled research resource and is the backbone of information on harness racing.

Licensing: Every driver and trainer must pass written and practical USTA examinations before participating in those capacities. Veteran drivers and trainers must vouch for a new participant's capabilities before they are allowed to participate at pari-mutuel or county fair tracks across the country.

Rules: While racing at the commercial racetracks is regulated at the state level, the USTA rules have long served as models for rules passed in all the states. When the USTA modifies its rulebook, states most often amend theirs in similar fashion. The rules of the USTA also hold sway at most county and state fairs.

Integrity: The USTA lends financial and staff support for many nationwide organizations to further industry efforts for uniform drug testing and racing rules. The association also gathers and maintains the sport's most comprehensive database of rules violations which serves





as an invaluable tool to state regulators and investigators. The USTA hosts the Integrity Hotline, through which confidential information on rule and integrity violations is gathered.

Promotion: The USTA and Harness Racing Communications (HRC), a division of the USTA based in New Jersey, work to educate the general public on harness racing. By working with the press and placing stories in magazines and newspapers, the USTA brings harness racing to the forefront of regional and national news.

Why join?

THE USTA offers many services and products to its members that are essential to their day-to-day business. Computer databases and programs improve a member's ability to compete, give them accurate information on their performance history and links state-by-state racing information at one central location. Other benefits to USTA membership include:

Member Benefits Program: USTA members receive substantial discounts on a number of products and

services, including John Deere, Sherwin-Williams, UPS, Office Depot and others. This program is available to individual and track members.

Representation: The USTA membership elects and is represented by a 60-member board of directors, which vote on rules that shape the industry. Members can voice their concerns at annual business meetings held across the country and submit rule change proposals.

Industry Support: Harness racing's voice in Washington is through the American Horse Council, of which the USTA is a charter and active member. The USTA has also instituted the Full Circle and Support Our Standardbreds programs and Pleasure Horse Registrations to actively address the unwanted horse issue and promote the use of Standardbreds in disciplines other than racing.

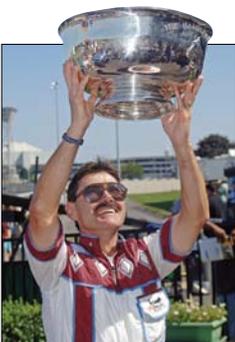


Market Development: The recruitment of new horse owners, education of bettors, finding new vocations for retired racehorses and supplying information to lawmakers and regulators help enhance and expand the racing and breeding industries across America.

Research: USTA research grants help find cures for equine disease and develop testing for illegal medications.

Products: USTA member fees are used to develop many outstanding products, including:

- *Hoof Beats* magazine, the sport's most widely read monthly publication
- ustrotting.com, the USTA's website, which draws nearly 10 million page views each month
- **PATHWAY**, the sport's online performance and breeding database, which allows subscribers to look up statistical information on equine and human participants
- **STARS**, a Web tool for breeders and yearling buyers for information on stallions



Be part of something special.

The U.S. Trotting Association and its nearly 21,000 members have allied to form harness racing's most important organization—dedicated to the sport, the breed and serving its members. It is an organization its members are proud of. Contact us today for more information at the phone numbers or Web site listed below.



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