

2020 ADOPTED RULE CHANGES

The following rule changes were adopted by the USTA Board of Directors at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Unless otherwise noted, these rules go into effect on May 1, 2020. Newly adopted rules are **bold underlined**, deletions are struck-out.

1. **4.60 Extended Pari-Mutuel Meetings** - An extended pari-mutuel meeting is a meeting or meetings at which no agricultural fair is in progress with an annual total of ~~10~~ **six** days or more ~~duration~~ with pari-mutuel wagering.

4.117 Non-Pari-Mutuel Meeting - A race meeting of less than ~~10~~ **six** days at which no pari-mutuel wagering is conducted.

14.03 Length of Race and Number of Heats. - Races or heats shall be given at a stated distance in units not shorter than a sixteenth of a mile.

(a) The length of a race and the number of heats shall be stated in the conditions for the race. If no distance or number of heats are specified all races shall be at a single mile except at county fairs and meetings of ~~a duration of 10~~ **six** days or more where the race will be conducted in two heats at one-mile distance.

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2. **Rule 4.70 Gene Doping – The non-therapeutic use of gene therapy in order to improve performance in events which prohibit such application of genetic modification for reasons other than the treatment of a disease.**

Rule 26.30 Prohibition Against Gene Doping – No horse shall be eligible for registration if it is the product of a gene doping procedure.

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3. **5.19 Racetrack Maintenance. - All extended pari-mutuel racetracks shall be responsible for executing proper racetrack maintenance. Failure to adhere to said requirements may result in a fine, suspension or denial of application for USTA membership. The regulation shall consist of the following:**
 - (a) **Standardbred Racetrack Surfaces**

1. Staff

Each racetrack will dedicate a minimum of two staff for the sole purpose of maintaining the racing surface during live racing events.

2. Track Grading

All racetracks will fully grade the racing surface at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the racing season. In addition to this, racetracks that race 55 days or fewer will fully grade the race surface every 30 days or as necessary.

3. Material

An adequate supply of surface material must be available throughout the racing season. The minimum standard racetrack surface cushion is to be ½ to 1 inch. The cushion measurement will be from the bottom of a jogging horse toe imprint to the top of the track material.

4. Conditioning

After every race, weather permitting, maintenance staff must groom the racetrack surface. Grooming will include one or more of the following tasks: watering, screening, harrowing or conditioning.

(b) Racetrack Operators

1. Racetrack Operators will ensure that the minimum standards are maintained. In addition, each racetrack will have available upon request by the USTA or other state racing authority, the reports on daily maintenance of the track racing surface.

2. If requested, all Racetrack Operators will make available to the USTA or other state racing authority, daily logbooks which contain the following:

a. Daily maintenance of track racing surface

b. Staffing schedules

c. Dates and times that the racing surface was groomed

d. Employee assigned to conduct work

e. Amount of water utilized

f. Amount of aggregate material utilized, and

g. Weather conditions.

3. Racetrack Operators will provide equipment to ensure track is maintained properly. Equipment shall consist of but not limited to grader, harrow/conditioner, screen, and water truck. In addition, racetrack operators will be responsible for equipment and maintenance logs to the USTA or other state racing authority, at their request.

4. Prior to a race card, a representative from the Horsemen's Committee will communicate with the judges and the Track Operator or their designee regarding the current conditions of the racing surface.
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4. **14.11 Qualifying Races –**

(e) To enable a horse to qualify, qualifying races should be held at least one (1) full week prior to the opening of any meeting ~~that opens before July 1st~~ of a season and shall be scheduled at least twice a week. Qualifying races shall also be scheduled twice a week during the meeting unless otherwise agreed upon by the track member and representative horsemen's association.

5. **17.07 Contents of Application for Trainer's License.**—An applicant for a license as a trainer must satisfy the Executive Vice-President that he or she possesses the necessary qualifications, both mental and physical, to perform the duties required. Elements to be considered among others shall be character, reputation, temperament, experience, knowledge of the rules of racing and duties of a trainer in the preparation, training, entering and managing of horses for racing. No application for a trainer's license will be accepted from a person who otherwise does not meet the requisite qualifications for membership.

The Executive Vice-President shall require the applicant to:

- (a) Submit evidence of good moral character.
- (b) Be at least 18 years of age.
- (c) Furnish complete application form. In the case of renewal applications said application may be submitted by telephone or other approved electronic filing.
- (d) **Effective January 1, 2021, an applicant for a new General trainer's license must be a member of the USTA for at least one full year and show evidence that he or she has been licensed as a groom or trainer by a state racing commission for at least three consecutive years. New applicants without such experience will be issued a Limited license, which must be held for a period of not less than 12 months with no rule violations prior to consideration for an upgrade to a General trainer's license.** Submit evidence of his or her ability to train and manage a racing stable which shall include at least three years experience working as a groom and/or second trainer.
- (e) When requested submit evidence of physical ability and/or submit to a physical examination.

(f) Applicants for a General trainer's license must submit the names of at least six currently licensed full "A" drivers and/or currently licensed general "G" trainers, **all of which must be current members in good standing with the USTA.** When an applicant for a general "G" trainer's license resides in a state where there are fewer than 120 days of extended pari-mutuel racing annually, the supporting references may come from active general "G" licensed trainers and/or active licensed drivers in a qualifying fair "Q/F" capacity or higher.

(g) **Any trainer, General or Limited, whose license has lapsed for a period of more than three years will be required to submit additional application information upon renewal of said license, which may include financial statements, employment history and/or proof of licensing from a state racing commission.**

6. **17.13 Driving Colors (b)** Drivers holding a USTA **"P" provisional** full "A" driver's license, residents of foreign countries who hold an equivalent license with a foreign association and drivers holding a conditional "CD" driver's license who formerly held a **"P" provisional** full "A" driver's license shall register their driving color design with the USTA.

7. **26.02 Standardbred.** Horses may be registered as Standardbred with any of the following qualifications:

(a) The progeny of a registered Standardbred horse and a registered Standardbred mare. Registration papers will not be issued until the foal is permanently identified and confirmation of parentage verification is received from the testing facility approved by this Association.

~~(b) A stallion sired by a registered Standardbred horse, provided his dam and granddam were sired by registered Standardbred horses and he himself has a Standard record and is the sire of three performers with Standard records from different mares.~~

~~(c) A mare whose sire is a registered Standardbred horse and whose dam and granddam were sired by a registered Standardbred horse provided she herself has a Standard record.~~

~~(d) A mare sired by a registered Standardbred horse provided she is the dam of two performers with Standard records.~~

~~(e) A mare or horse sired by a registered Standardbred horse provided its first, second and third dams are each sired by a registered Standardbred horse.~~

(f) In order for a foal to be registered the application for registration, the mating certificate and the fee for registration must be submitted to the USTA no later than December 31st of the foaling year. The foal may be registered after the December 31st deadline upon payment of the additional fee for late registration.

(g) Horses registered Standardbred with Standardbred Canada, the New Zealand Trotting Conference, the Australian Stud Book, the Stud Books of Norway, Finland, Sweden, France, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Germany and Argentina, or the Stud Books of other selected European countries may be re-registered Standardbred with the USTA provided their records and/or qualifications meet the standards of the USTA and are approved by the President, Executive Vice-President or Registration Committee.

(h) The status of a previously registered Standardbred may be changed to Pleasure Horse upon application by the owner and surrender of the registration certificate to the USTA. Owners can exercise one of two options:

1. Pleasure Registration: Owners prohibit registration of future offspring and terminate any electronic eligibility previously issued.
2. Pleasure Registration No Racing: Owners terminate any electronic eligibility previously issued. No prohibition on registration of offspring. Any transferee must be a member of the USTA.

(i) The Registration Committee may register as Standardbred any horse which does not qualify under the above sections if in their opinion he or she should be registered Standardbred.

8. **26.03 Appendix/Non-Standardbred.** – Any horse may be registered as Non-Standard **providing one of the parents is a registered Standardbred. The following provisions must also be met:**

- 1. If the sire is a Standardbred, the USTA must receive a list of mares bred (LOMB) with breeding dates for the mare and the resulting signed mating certificate; or if the dam is a Standardbred, the USTA must receive a signed mating certificate (or equivalent) from the stallion's registry.**
- 2. DNA markers and a copy of the registration papers must be sent to the USTA from the non-Standardbred parent's registry. If the non-Standardbred parent has not been previously DNA genotyped by their registry, a DNA kit may be ordered to satisfy the requirements.**
- 3. An application for foal registration must be filled out for the resulting foal and submitted with the appropriate registration fee.**

4. The owner of the Standardbred parent and the owner of the foal must be current USTA members.

5. The foal must be DNA typed and permanently identified in accordance with Rule 26.27.

Any owner standing a Non-Standard stallion for service must include the fact that it is Non-Standard in all advertisements of such service.

Other provisions of these rules notwithstanding, the Registration Committee may register as Non-Standard any horse which does not qualify for such registration under this section if, in their opinion, such horse should be registered Non-Standard.

A registered Non-Standard horse cannot race and the records of such horses will be kept separate from those registered as Standardbred.

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9. **17.15 Mandatory Licensing of Riders.**- No person shall ride a horse in any race on a racetrack of a track member, except for exhibition contests conducted by fairs on which no pari-mutuel wagering is conducted, and for which no USTA records are kept, without having first obtained from the USTA an active membership including a rider's license. **To ensure the fitness of riders, each rider must qualify or go an official workout at least once each calendar year prior to the start of any Racing Under Saddle race.**

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10. **19.07 Horses Properly Equipped.** - Horses shall be properly equipped with the following:
- (a) Bridle with bit **in mouth** and overcheck ~~with bit~~.
 - (b) Rubber racing, Ladder reins or Double "French" reins.
 - (c) Crupper.
 - (d) English, monte, or jockey saddle. Overgirth on saddle with only one billet.
 - (e) Breast collar or buxton.
 - (f) Appropriate saddle pad.
 - (g) Head numbers, head poles, line poles, ~~line burrs~~ and two-ring martingales are prohibited.
 - (h) Securing the rider to the saddle and/or the legs or feet of the rider in the stirrups, including but not limited to tying the stirrups to the girth, banding the feet in the stirrups is prohibited.
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11. **19.08 Qualifying Standards.** - Horses used in Racing Under Saddle shall meet the following qualifications:
- (a) Show at least one charted line under saddle on a trotting or pacing gait.
 - (b) A horse shall be considered qualified for Racing Under Saddle races if it meets the following standards at the track where the horse is qualifying: 1/2-mile track 2:16; 5/8 mile track 2:14; 7/8 mile or larger track 2:12.
 - (c) A horse must qualify **each calendar year** at least once or go an official workout on the trotting or pacing gait prior to the start of any Racing Under Saddle races and will not need to re-qualify unless required to do so by the Judges.