

RACING COMMITTEE REPORT
(Driver/Trainer, Fairs, Pari-Mutuel, Regulatory Combined)
March 11, 2018

REPORT No. 2

The Racing Committee was called to order at 1 p.m. by Chairman, Donald (Skip) Hoovler.

1. **Roll Call** was taken by Vice Chairman Gabe Wand. Present were: Jeff Gregory, Chairman, Driver/Trainer Committee, Steve Oldford, Vice Chairman, Driver/Trainer Committee; Skip Hoovler, Chairman, Fairs Committee, Gabe Wand, Vice Chairman, Fairs Committee; Mark Loewe, Chairman, Pari-Mutuel Committee, Ben Kenney, Vice Chairman, Pari-Mutuel Committee; Joe Faraldo, Chairman, Regulatory Committee, Scott Peine, Vice Chairman, Regulatory Committee. Other Committee Directors: Dan Ater, Ivan Axelrod, Sam Beegle, Dan Bittle, Dick Brandt, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Stacy Cahill, Jay Cross, Joe Frasure Jr., Mark Ford, Richard Gillock, Jerry Haws, Jacquie Ingrassia, Russ MacKinnon, Chris McErlean, Steve McCoy, Jim Miller, Corey Callahan, Dr. John Mossbarger, Fred Nichols, Steve O'Toole, Joe Pennacchio, Jim Reynolds, Pete Koch, Ray Schnittker, Jason Settlemoir, Jordan Stratton, Mike Sweeney, David Siegel, Bruce Alexander, Dein Spriggs, Kevin Decker.
- **Universal Rules Committee Update** As Chairman of the Universal Rules Committee, John Campbell discussed the rule change proposals that his committee has presented to the USTA in an effort to unify racing rules across each jurisdiction.
2. **2018 Proposed Rule changes and Bylaw Changes** The Committee considered and acted upon the proposals as follows:
 - Proposal #1 – Accepted as amended (100% allowance for 2 year old colts, geldings and spayed mares; for fillies and mares, 2 year olds 120%, 3 year olds 70%, 4 year olds 45%, and 5 year olds and up 20%).
 - Proposal #2 – Accepted as amended (no head numbers at extended pari-mutuel meets).
 - Proposal #3 – Accepted.
 - Proposal #4 – Accepted as amended (include outriders in list of those who may be tested)
 - Proposal #4 – Tabled to Rules Committee for language.
 - Proposal #6 – Accepted.
 - Proposal #7 – Tabled for further discussion.
 - Proposal #8 – Accepted.
 - Proposal #9 – Tabled to Rules Committee for language.
 - Proposal #10 – Rejected.
 - Proposal #11 – Accepted.
 - Proposal #12 – Accepted.
 - Proposal #13 - Accepted.
 - Proposal #14 – Accepted.

- Proposal #15- Accepted as amended (delete the first line of referring to whip measurements).
- Proposal #16 – Rejected.
- Proposal #17 – Rejected.
- Proposal #18 – Accepted.
- Proposal #19 – Accepted.
- Proposal #20 – Accepted as amended (delete #2 – pleasure registration, no breeding).
- Proposal #21 – Accepted.
- Proposal #24 – Withdrawn.

3. Fairs Committee Report

- The Matching Funds Grant program has assisted 80 different county fairs and horsemen’s organizations that have worked with the fairs to provide monetary assistance with advertising and promotion.
- More than \$150,000 has been awarded since 2006.

4. Driver/Trainer Committee Report

- 2017 Licensing
 - New Trainers Licensed - 162
 - Limited Trainer – 7
 - General Trainer – 155
 - New Drivers Licensed – 137
 - Matinee – 4
 - Qualifying/Fair – 90
 - Provisional – 23
 - Full – 20
 - Combined Q/F-G or L – 68
 - New Driver/Trainer Protocol – Michele Kopiec made a presentation on the myaccount.ustrotting.com feature that has been created to expedite applications for licensure.
 - Exam review - Chairman Jeff Gregory will reach out to other Directors to review and update the current driver/trainer written exam.
- Schools/Seminars - 2018 Standardbred Driving School Update
 - Twenty students attended the school in 2017, which was held in Delaware, OH. Bob Boni was the keynote speaker. Instructors included Brian Brown, Aaron Merriman, and Directors Joe Faraldo and Steve Oldford. The school was funded in part with a grant from the OHHA. This grant provided Ohio residents with a 50% discount off the school registration fee. All students were eligible for a rebate upon the purchase of an Ohio-bred yearling at one of the public sales.

- A major sponsor of the school is Chubb Insurance, who has contributed \$2,500 each year since the school began in 1999. To date, that amount totals an impressive \$50,000. Chubb was thanked for their continued support.
- The 2018 school will return to New York. Both the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame and Mark Ford Training Center will be utilized for school sessions.
- Amateur Driving - Steve Oldford provided a detailed overview of amateur events including:
 - Current amateur drivers continue to play an important role at the driving school where they ride with the students and give encouragement and coaching. Interested students are then aligned with an amateur driver mentor to help them become a driver. Several former students of the school are now instructors, mentors and amateur drivers.
 - Membership and participation in amateur races around the world continues to be popular with racing now available year-round for amateur driving enthusiasts; The Isle of Capri at Pompano Park, along with The Meadowlands, both run weekly amateur races. Spring series races are also beginning at Yonkers and Monticello.
 - Several clubs host international competitions each year 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, veterans clubs and civic organizations to our own Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, amateur drivers are very generous in raising money for these and other groups.
- Disability Insurance – Mike McNeely, VanGundy Insurance Agency reported that the voluntary disability income program with accidental death and dismemberment written by VanGundy, underwritten by Chubb insurance, is running at a five-year combined loss ratio of **52.76%**. 152 claims have been paid in the five-year period of the program. There are no rate changes for 2018. At present, there are 166 participants in the program – Mike welcomes any and all suggestions to increase participation.

5. Pari-Mutuel Committee Report

- Chairman Loewe discussed the USTA dues structure – handle versus purses or a hybrid of both?
- Sherry Antion-Mohr presented a random.org overview, which is the 3rd party service that is behind the random draw feature in eTrack that is currently used by most US tracks.

- Pylon survey results - Chairman Loewe made reference to the survey results, which were provided to each committee member. The consensus of the survey is that there is no consensus.
- Mike Tanner made reference to IRS/Gambling Winnings, down 2% from last year.
- Mike Tanner gave an update on the TRPB-Transaction Audit Files, which is a product used by the Thoroughbred tracks to see where money from each wager originated.
- Mike Tanner also provided an update on the Strategic Wagering program – Chris Schick will continue to oversee until we find a replacement to take over the role.
 - Chairman Loewe discussed the idea of have something available to all tracks involved in Strategic Wagering to better coordinate wagers.

6. Regulatory Committee Report

- Officials Schools, Continuing Education - In November, 2017, USTA conducted a full 10-day Racing Officials Accreditation Program. There were 26 students who were tested on Administrative Law/Medication/Video Analysis/Oral Reasoning and General Rules/Regulations. We are pleased to announce that there was a 70% passing rate, the highest in the program history. In addition to the full program, USTA also held a continuing education, two-day seminar. There were 20 additional racing officials representing DE, FL, IN, KY, MA, NJ, OH, ONT and PA who attended the 16-hour course, which is a mandatory requirement for keeping their accreditation with the ROAP. Plans for 2018 are for a two-day CE to be held at The Meadows.
- This May, the USTA will host a Clerk/Charter program, based in Westerville, OH. The course, which will be coordinated by Michele Kopiec, will be held May 8-10. There will be two days of education held at the office, and one day in the field. Scioto Downs has graciously offered their facility to conduct that portion.
- Chairman Faraldo discussed an RMTC update and reviewed the need for a formation of a Standardbred RMTC, as the rules of the RMTC only consider Thoroughbreds needs. Recommendations from the committee would be taken to RCI for distribution to individual racing commissions.
- The use of nebulizers was discussed and it was referenced that, while the USTA has no specific rule regarding its use, the action is not an appropriate practice. Faraldo suggested that those who choose to perform such a procedure will be in violation of the USTA regulations.

Adjourn

- There were no other matters to come before the committee and the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.