

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 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) Drivers will be allowed to use whips not to exceed three feet, nine inches in length plus a snapper not to exceed six inches in length. Whips shall not be made of rawhide and shall be approved by the judges.~~

~~(15)~~(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.

~~(16)~~(15) The possession of any mechanical or electrical goading device on the grounds of an association shall constitute a violation.

~~(17)~~(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.

~~(18) Brutal or excessive or indiscriminate use of a whip, or striking a horse with the butt end of a whip, or striking a wheel disc of a sulky with a whip, shall be a violation.~~

~~(19)~~(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.

~~(20)~~(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

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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.

~~(24)~~(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.

~~(22)~~(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.

~~(23)~~(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.

~~(24)~~(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.

~~(25)~~(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.

~~(26)~~(24) Multiple Disqualifications. Should the judges [stewards] 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.

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- (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.

K.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.

L.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.
- (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.

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(b) For the purpose of attempting to improve the horse's position.

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

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