



Race Track Industry Program

**38th ANNUAL  
SYMPOSIUM ON RACING & GAMING**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011**

**So You Want to be a Steward?**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Eddie Arroyo**, Board Member, Illinois Racing Board

**Hugh Gallagher**, Executive Director, Delaware Harness Racing Commission

**Ms. Wendy Davis:** I'd like to thank you two for coming out here and walking us through this, and if any of you are interested in the racing officials program, I will be back here during the whole session, or most of the session, anyway, and either Hugh or Eddie can answer any questions about that also, because they are actively involved in the Board.

So, with that, I'll turn it over to you, and we'll get going.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Thank you.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Thank you. First of all, I'll give you a little small background of what my experience in racing is, and then Hugh can do the same so you understand where we're coming from.

I started out as a jockey back in the early, mid 60's. I rode for 13 years. After that, I became a Steward in Illinois. I was an assistant Steward for a year, then I became an Associate Steward for a year or two, and then I was promoted to the Senior position. I did that for 10 years. I'd left for 10 years to work in association for the racetrack Arlington Park, and then also Sportsmen's Park. I was the general manager at one, assistant to the chairman at the other. Then, I came back to the Steward stand. I've been back since 2001, so that's basically a brief description of my background.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** I'm from Maryland originally. My family owned horses, thoroughbreds and harness horses, and I started working at racetracks during the summer when I was in high school. Aside from being in the barn area with the family on horses. The first job I had was as an usher. So, immediate contact with the public, and realizing the importance of treating customers properly, and that was some years ago.

So, from there, later in high school I went and worked as a vet's assistant during the summer, and that led me — one of my uncles was on the Maryland Racing Commission when the Genuine Risk-Codex race took place and I talked to Uncle Neil quite a bit about what the Commission does, and how they reason things out and what their focus is.

That's when I started a career path in racing, so I went and got licensed by the USTA. I also, Eddie and I are both graduates of — prior to ROAP, there was a Marshall Cassidy school for officials at the Jockey Club held in New York. Then, once I got working, managed to work eight different states over the last 20-some years, and I officiated 38,000 races from the stand and put another 2,000 races together as Director of Racing, put them on the track from management perspective.

Currently, as Executive Director for the Delaware Harness Commission, administered over 15,000 races from start to finish, including making some improvements in our human testing and other areas of equine testing. So, with that, we'll turn it over to Eddie to get the program started.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** We can go to the next slide, I don't know how this works. Anyway, as you know, regulation of racing is changing, and has changed basically because of simulcasting and inter-track wagering, and off-track wagering. Most of you are now watching many, many races at the same time from different jurisdictions. So we the Stewards are no longer being watched by just a few people, unfortunately, that at our racetracks these days, but by a multitude of people across the country and outside the country.

Therefore, everybody's scrutinizing what we do, and how it affects them, and it's made a change for us because we need to be transparent now. The public needs to know exactly what we do, how we do it, and why we do it, and hopefully we're going to take you through some of the steps today so you understand how we come to the decisions that we make.

I think we're going to give them a chance at the end of the session to ask some questions they want, correct? So, to get to the point that we would like to get to, is we need to have modern rules, modern rules that every jurisdiction understands and interprets the same way. Right now, Illinois has its own rules, they're a little different than California and New York, and in between. So, therefore, we're striving, and this is where ROAP comes in. We're trying to make sure that everybody understands and interprets the rules the same way.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** On model rules, I am also Vice Chair of model rules for RCI. So, this is an issue that's very dear to my heart, and it'll be even closer about 1:00 this afternoon because we do have a model rules meeting at the Omni today.

One thing to keep in mind, and Eddie started to allude to this, is that a model rule is not by necessity a uniform rule, even though that is the goal, that we would like to have one set of rules. It is not uniform. Model rules are set up to be if you go back to the best of all possible worlds it could possibly be, that's what we would like to have. I think we had some success with that when we started dealing with after 2008, the crop change rules and some things like that. We came up with some very well-thought-out, refined rules that made a difference for the integrity of the sport, protecting the public interest as well as the participants' investment on the track.

Again, keep in mind that a model rule is not by necessity, uniform. We have many members of RCI in the Caribbean and throughout Canada as well, so each jurisdiction does have its own sovereignty on how its rules are put together. Some rule changes can be done and adopted quickly, and others take time, have to go through legislative changes, and you need lobbyists and members of the representative, senator representative to introduce and sponsor bills for you to get some rule changes.

But, the main thing that we're talking about here today is how rules impact what Stewards do in the stand, and that has to do with some of the specific language that rulebooks have regarding placings and interference. So, you may be looking here from Arizona, simulcast of races. You can look at a race in California and see that a placing was made, but in New York it wasn't, and you scratch your head and wonder why.

As Eddie said, part of the mission of ROAP, of we that are dedicated to the education and continuing education of racing officials. We want to address that, and try to work on that, and bring things to a point of cohesion so that it is easier and better for the consumer to see that there is some uniformity taking place.

So, that's the major difference on the model rules, uniform rules, and the practical rules that are in each jurisdiction, but one thing you certainly need to know before you go up to a Steward stand to work any given day is, where you're working and what you have there.

I'm going to make a quick analogy to baseball. There are ground rules also, and each racetrack is unique in that regard, too. I think a Steward's obligation, whether you're an association Steward or a state Steward, is to work closely with all aspects of the departments of management at each association, and to be working with them. We're all there for one thing, and that's the betterment of racing, and we need to work together to bring that to fruition.

Eddie can start going through the duties of the race.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** As you know, Stewards are there early in the morning, at least there's one Steward. We, basically what we do, we do scratches. We all know what an overnight is, and then the day of the race for us, and I'm just going to use the Illinois procedures and rules and practices because that's what I'm very familiar with, is at 9:00 in the morning anyone that wants any, any trainer that wants to scratch a horse out of a race, out of the overnight, he has to submit a scratch card to the Stewards. We review it, we have rules that we abide by. In other words, once you enter the horse, he's considered entered, and he is supposed to race unless he has a medical ailment.

If the race over-fills, then we can go down to a certain level, but we still have to produce a product for the wagering public. The public wants as large a field as possible, so trainers are encouraged that when they enter a horse, that the horse has to be ready to run, he has to be able to pass all the veterinary inspections prior to the race day, and then at that time if the horse got sick the night before, or for whatever reason couldn't chip in, that's when we handle that. We handle that at 9:00 in the morning.

Then we handle all the other clerical things, incidents that happened the day before, we have carrying on, but what I'm going to go into is our typical afternoon. What we watch when we watch a race, and how do we come to make a decision at the conclusion of the race.

As you know, after you watch races for a while, analytically for infractions, your eye becomes trained so as you're watching a race, if there's a horse in front by two or three lengths, and there's one in second by two or three, but you see in the middle of the pack there is an incident developing where there is four or five horses but it looks like there's going to be room for about three, in about three jumps. Your eye immediately focuses on that, and you watch to make sure that everybody stays in their lane, to make sure that there's not an infraction.

So, your eye immediately looks at that. All Stewards basically do the same thing. In our jurisdiction, we have three Stewards as we all do. Two of us watch the race live with binoculars. We feel that's very important for the perception that you don't get in the video when you have the replay, because of the angles. The other Steward watches it on the monitors, five or six monitors that we watch from different angles. We rotate once a week. Once a week we change, so one Steward watches the monitors, the other two watch it live, just to keep so we have a perception of what we're looking at and it's a clear perception, rather than always watching the same thing all the time.

Now, assuming that we see an inquiry, we see an incident in a race, we put up the inquiry doesn't mean that we're going to take a horse, disqualify a horse. We put up an inquiry because there is an incident in the race that matters an inquiry into it, but it also needs to alert the public that there is an incident in the race that may have affected the outcome of the race.

Or, a jockey can claim foul, and if a jockey claims foul or we put up an inquiry, this is what happens. The horses, no matter what happens in the race we never stop watching the race until they finish the, go past the wire, and then shortly thereafter.

The only time that we do that if there is an incident in the race where a jockey or a horse is down, and we need to alert someone immediately. That hardly ever happens, because we all have walkie-talkies, so once we hear the chatter where the pony people and the ambulance drivers and the veterinarians say the horse is down, or a jockey's down, or broke down or pulled up at a certain area of the track, we know that has been addressed. We continue to focus on the race.

Then we go back to the incident, because what happens here, something else could happen in the race that you don't want to miss. So, we follow that all along. Assuming there's an incident in the race and the jockey claimed foul, and he claims foul as he gallops past the outrider. The outrider has the walkie-talkie that communicates with the Stewards, the jockey will say, "I am claiming foul against the four horse, at the eighth pole." The outrider then calls the Stewards and says, "Jockey so-and-so is claiming foul against the four at the eighth pole."

This is what happens then, and why a lot of people say, "Well, we saw it, why don't you just make the decision and why make us wait five, ten minutes?" Well, before we can even address that decision, the following has to happen. We need to call the announcer and tell them exactly what happened. The jockey claimed foul against the particular horse, at where it happened.

After calling the announcer, we need to call the winner's circle because we need to talk to those jockeys before we make any decisions on whether we were disqualifying that. Those jockeys need to be heard. The trainer may call and the owner may call, so the only people that can lodge an objection in our state are the owner, trainer and jockey of the particular horses that were involved in the incident.

If another jockey or an owner-trainer cannot lodge an objection against, they weren't involved, however, it does not stop the Stewards from talking to anyone they need to, to make that decision or to get information about the decision. So, we also need to tell the placing judges. We need to have them place the inquiry sign, the tote system has to be alerted. The numbers have to flash. The jockey has to pull up, bring the horse back to the winner's circle, or the area dismounting, get on the phone, and talk to the Stewards.

Once that is done, then we'll sit down and look at the video, and decide what we're going to do. We will look at the video as many times as we think is necessary to make the decision, because once we make that decision, we are going to have to defend that decision later on and lots of times, seldom, but most times it winds up in the court and you will have to testify as to what you did, why you did it, throughout the whole system. So, you better be right, and don't let the pressures of timeliness interfere with what you have to do.

So, basically, that's where the — we, at that time that we are looking at that film or we're making that decision, we don't ever, ever talk about penalty for the jockey or anybody else. That is a separate incident on a separate day, and usually it's the next day. So, at that point in time, we're focusing on what happened, and so there are two things that we look for. Really the important part is, was there an infraction, who did it, and who were the horses involved? Also, you mentioned we also have to complete the order of finish.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Yeah, you need to splash, you've got a lot of protocols.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** If there's a dead heat, or close, you have to have all of that in front of you before you make a decision. So, that is some, takes a little time. But anyhow, we look at two things for disqualification. Is there an infraction? Was there a horse interfered with? Yes, let's say there was a horse interfered with.

The second thing you have to decide nowadays is, did the interference cost the horse a placing? In other words, would he be — let's say that we're talking about the first and second horses, and it was a bumping and the difference in the race was two, three, four inches. It probably most likely cost that horse a placing, so therefore, you would probably disqualify the horse.

However, it happened at the five-eighths pole, and they came together and the one jockey checked, but they all recovered, they all went along and that horse finished fifth or sixth or seventh. Would then, we would consider — we knew there was an incident, and we do agree that there was some interference, but then we have to decide whether the interference was sufficient to disqualify the horse because it cost that horse a placing. When I mean a placing, I don't mean second money, I mean second, third, fourth or fifth, because they earn money up to fifth in our state.

So, but if a horse finished eighth or ninth or tenth, and it was some interference but it did not affect the outcome of the race, we will probably not disqualify, but it's a judgment call. Not everybody makes that call the same way. What we try to do, and as hard as we try to do, is try to be consistent in the calls we make. However, I've never seen two races and two infractions that are alike. They're similar, but never alike, and you've heard the term. There's a thousand ways to lose a race. There are also a thousand different incidents in a race, and you have to adjudicate them on their merit, rather as to what you did or what normally you would have done. It's what is in front of you, that's the decision you have to make.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** I think that's very important, very well said, and when you were talking about a lot of people want to know why does it take 10, 15, 20 minutes to get it done. There are a lot of components to an inquiry or a jockey's or a driver's objection, and you can also as Eddie said, and I've dealt with those before, I've had an owner actually call an objection in, in a state of grace, and we dealt with that with the same set of mechanics that you do with any other objection or inquiry.

Going back to it, the great Steward Keene Dangerfield wrote an article once that has stayed very close to my mind, called, *"Mistakes Don't Carry Stopwatches"*. So, the essence of that article is, that you don't rush your way through. Eddie certainly has addressed that. Aside from the mechanics you have, when you get into the deliberation and the judgment side of it after you've realized that there is something there, and after all, that's all that inquiry means. It means question. You have a question that something occurred, but you're not sure.

In real time it happened so fast that you may have to go back and review and review, but you also have an obligation to move a program forward. There are other things going on. You don't have the luxury of time to put it on pause and go out and ruminate about it a bit and then come back. You've got some pressures there but as Eddie and the article by Mr. Dangerfield said, mistakes don't carry stopwatches. So, you keep that close in mind.

You do have to make a decision that you're going to live with, and it doesn't make any difference whether it's one of the lowest claiming races of the day, or time of year, or the best race in the world. You have to treat that in a consistent and uniform fashion, but as Eddie also said, I fully agree: no two races are alike. That's one of the beauties of racing, is that once they're all loaded in the gate and the starter says "go," except for a few things that Eddie's going to show us about starting gate incidents in a bit, the race unfolds in a beautiful way.

But, when things happen, you can go back and you have to have your own scale. You have to have your own standards on what you think constitutes taking a horse down, and as Eddie said, that's a matter of your own judgment and that's why there are three people there. Eddie brings a lot to the stand having been a rider, and many other things in the business, an executive. So, he sees it from multiple perspectives, and that's critical that you do that.

When you deliberate, you truly have to believe in what you see and the reason that you're calling for a placing, and it is your obligation to try to convince the other two stewards up there that your call is right. You see something, and that the horse should or should not come down and make your argument and pitch to them. Then, you have to take a vote and once that's done, you take the action on the board, the inquiry, the flashing lights come down, and you finally get around to where you post it official, turn the page, and go to the next race.

Because, once you've made that decision, you have to be firm in your mind that your actions were proper and appropriate, and then you move forward, but if there's a lot of doubt, pass it. If you doubt for one second, one way or the other, it's best to leave that race alone and go to the next one.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** We can go on to the starting gate incident. As you know, the starting gate is the area where most of the incidents occur, unfortunately they're at the start. We have the horses, they come out. If they're not standing perfect, or if they're moving around, they run into each other, they completely recover and go on down the field, but a lot of things happen. The two things that's happened, that's got the attention of the racing public, is if a horse — in our state, and under our rules, if a horse is interfered in any way by the malfunction of the starting gate. If it does not have a fair start, a fair start meaning that the gates have to open simultaneously with every other horse in the race.

If he is interfered with that, if those gates don't open, or open a little later than the other ones, then he has been interfered with. So, for the fairness of the public, that horse in our

state would not be considered a starter. We would order a refund because he did not get a fair start.

Two things happen at the gate, that if the gates don't open simultaneously with the other horses, or the gates when they flip open and it takes about 300 pounds of pressure, have you seen a horse that hit the gate, and the gate pops open? It takes about 300 pounds of pressure for that gate to pop open. It's a big hit, but anyhow, when the gates slam back, every once in a while that magnet that holds it there doesn't hold it, and the gate comes back. So, you'll see this and if you look real close, and usually you could — you don't see that, because it happens so quick, you see the horse react because he gets hit.

If that happens, then you need to go back and look at that. If that horse is interfered with, and most likely he was, then that horse has to be declared a non-starter, and people need to have a refund on the race. Do we have a tape? I think we could run that, right?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** This one?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Um-hmm.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Okay, so, ready where it says "stop", yes?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yeah, and now you know where to look.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Um-hmm.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** It appears that the gates open, simultaneously with the other horse, so now you have to look at something else. What kept that horse in there? If the gate person was trying to straighten that horse out, and he had control, or he had them where the horse did not have a chance to break with the other horses, then we would then consider that horse a non-starter.

However, if that horse stayed in the gate and he did it because of no apparent reason except he didn't want to break, then under our rules, that horse is a starter. That's no different than the horse going around a turn and bolting, or just running a little bit and quitting. This is what the rules are. I don't know, that's probably the best way to address that issue, because the horse is supposed to be trained, it's supposed to guarantee that when he goes in that gate, he's able to come out, but they are animals and they are somewhat difficult sometimes to manage, and they'll do things that you don't expect them to do, and you have no answer.

This looks like this horse just refused to break, and it wasn't going to come out because they're trying to push him.

**Audience Member:** Would you mind playing that one, one more time?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yeah, sure.

**Ms. Wendy Davis:** You need to hit, go back within the slide and then make them play it on the slide.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Oh, here we go. All right, I think they're working on that at this time, so.

**Event Staff:** You want to go back to what, sir?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** If you can just play this video again, that's embedded in there, please?

**Event Staff:** Sure.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Thank you. The front of the horse is through the gate, so.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Um-hmm.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Now, the other question is, was there aside from mechanical equipment, was part of the something on the horse, that it was wearing, stuck, you know?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yep. Seems like something, he's trying to break. It looks like something — this is awful grainy, and it's hard to tell exactly. What we would do here, we'd actually, we would watch this repeatedly in slow motion and what we do, or what I do, is your eye is trained to follow movement. So, if you don't follow movement, if you focus one shot, you focus on the starter. You focus on where his hand is. Not watch the horse at all, but watch the guy's hand.

Then the other, you'd watch the gate itself, watch that. Don't watch the horse, watch the gate open. You watch that, you might watch four or five different angles, same shot, but your eye needs to focus and not let your eye be distracted by the movement of the horse coming out. Just watch the gate guy, and you see what his actions were.

We, in our jurisdiction, require that every time—and you watch this because they do it all the time at Hawthorne and Arlington Park—when the assistant starter in the gate with the horse, he hears the bell and the gates open. His hand has to go up in the air. His hand goes up in the air, no matter where the horse is at. He's got to turn loose of that horse. Once those gates open, he cannot try to fix anything in that race, that horse is on his own. His hand has to go up in the air, so all their hands as the gates open, their hands go up in the air.

Whether the horse is straight or not, the hands go up in the air, and then I think we're confident that we're seeing correctly. Now, I've seen things where he's having to fight the horse because the horse is in the other stall, and there's nothing you can do about that. Yes, sir?

**Audience Member:** Do you ever call the starter and ask them for their opinion?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yes, all the time. Or usually, usually he calls us first. When something like this happens, he calls us and gives us an explanation. We'll also talk to the jockey before we make a decision.

**Audience Member:** If you had a non-starter in a claiming race, what impact does that have on the claim?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** If the gates opened in front of him?

**Audience Member:** When there's a mechanical failure.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Oh, it's a mechanical failure?

**Audience Member:** Non-start because of mechanical failure.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** He's, the claim is void.

**Audience Member:** The claim is void?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yeah, and he must have, the starters consider a horse that comes out when the gates open, whether he breaks or not, if the gates open properly he is sold. If the gates don't open properly, he is not.

**Audience Member:** Doesn't that from the definition, what about states like Texas, where as soon as they hit the track?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** You're right, Steve, you have to go back and look at the individual rule, the claiming rule of when a horse is actually claimed.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** A starter.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Because, some say when the horse — to the post-parade, some are, when the starter says "go."

**Audience Member:** Like 10 minutes before?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Um-hmm.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Yeah, right. Right.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Each —

**Audience Member:** Each one is sort of weird —

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** And there's a new rule that we have to deal with in model rules from California, about voiding claims after the start of a race. Yes?

**Audience Member:** With a claimer, if he gets hit from behind with the gate that sticks, and it stops him, and he's stepped out, what is —?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Oh, he wouldn't get hit from behind.

**Ms. Wendy Davis:** Just repeat the question because everybody may not hear it in the back.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** If a claimer gets hit with the gate from behind? I don't know, I don't understand how that would happen.

**Audience Member:** I thought you said that the gate went back and was held?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Oh, he was talking about the front where a part of it would flip back?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yeah, the front.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** The magnetic.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** It would hit him in the gate, it would hit him in the face rather than behind.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** I think what you're saying in your jurisdiction that would be, that was a mechanical reason that the horse couldn't start, so that would void the claim.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Right.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** But again, it's specific language for each jurisdiction. Next one?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yeah.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Rules relating to the start, Jurisdiction A, okay.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Again, here, we actually deal with our own rules, and as he just brought out, each state has a little different ruling. I think this is why, I guess this is my rule pitch again. This is why we need more of this, we need to all interpret the rules similarly because it is — people are very transient. Horse owners and trainers and jockeys, and now the fans, even though they're sitting in one place, they're very transient. They're betting Aqueduct, Belmont, or they're betting Florida, the tracks are betting California. So, they're watching this.

Except that we're all operating under different rules, and this is why it's so important that the industry moves in the direction where we have rules that are interpreted the same way throughout the country for the fans, and also for the credibility of the industry. It's very important that everybody understands how the industry is regulated, and who regulates it.

I think we covered this, Hugh.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Okay.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Okay, this is an interesting one that has come up. You've seen horses break through the gate before the start, and we have two ways of addressing this. I believe one is most of the time, the horse breaks through and the starter hangs on to him or he trickles out, or goes a few strides, and the pony person is able to catch him and the jockey, they pulled him up and he's brought back behind the gate. He is inspected by the veterinarian there. There's always a veterinarian behind the gate.

So, he then makes a decision after checking the horse, whether that horse should start or not, and then if he feels that the horse should start, he calls the Steward and says, "This horse is okay to start, we can let him run." Or, if he feels like, no, this horse should not start for whatever reason, then he calls us, we'll scratch the horse. We actually follow his recommendations 100 percent of the time. He's a professional, and we have a lot of confidence in these people that do this.

However, and that's not an issue. The issue is if the horse breaks through the gates about the same time that the starter flipped it. In other words, he goes and a tenth of a second later everybody else goes, but he clearly, in our opinion, we have to make a decision. Did he get an unfair start? He was out there first, and we've seen the issues where horses—I think we can go back to one more. Where horses have broken through the gate first. Can we play this?

You watch where that circle is, I believe —

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** I think the gate opens early on this one. Yeah, jumped out early.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** I think if you were betting on the horse that's in front there, I thought you'd say that was a great start. But, if you were betting on some of the others, you'd think he had an unfair advantage. Now, my position on this — and this is, this varies, and you might hear other opinions, you might have a different opinion.

I believe anytime that this happens, the correct thing to do is declare this horse a non-starter. Immediately, he's a non-starter, from my perspective, and I'll tell you why. Because no matter where he finishes, he could win, or he could be second or third or fourth, but if we declare him a non-starter, we know, you folks would know what the rule is. He is a non-starter, so any time that we see this happen, and the Stewards see it and take notice of it, and there's an inquiry on it, that you know that this is the way it's going to be handled. I don't like the idea that giving us too much power to do, to say well, he finished third so we'll leave him for third. Or you know, so these people get their money.

If we declare a horse a non-starter, the people that wager on this horse, they don't lose, because they get their money back. They might not have won their bet because the horse finished first, second or third, but they didn't lose anything. The other people that bet the horses that were second or third, or that finished behind this horse, they lost because this horse was in front of, got a fair start, when their horse didn't. So, I think this is one of those rules that in my opinion it should be a black-and-white rule, but it isn't. It's subject to interpretation. I'm sure that —

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** No, I think that you've addressed it quite well, and the issue really is whether it's fair or not. If a horse does have an advantage, that's not fair. I think the other point that you struck on that does hit a nerve with some Stewards, Stewards are up there to officiate the race and to regulate it. But, they're not there to handicap it, necessarily, and to be in a position where they have to say, "Well, that horse would have won anyway." That's not the point of the race, the race determines that. If the race was fair, and the start was fair, you never know.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Right.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** This one?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Uh-huh.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Steve?

**Audience Member:** Maybe another side to this, because I argued it and not successfully, or maybe successfully because the false start rule came in, in New Orleans. I would want to know where the horse finished, and I could agree that if it finished second, third, fourth, fifth, maybe not. But, if you refund the money, if you declare it a non-starter, you're taking that money out of the mutuel pool. If the horse had an advantage and then clearly was not of the ability to maintain it, and finished last, I would question why you'd want to take money out of the mutuel pool and possibly lower the payout to those people that bet on the horse, the horses that did finish in front of it. That's — if you refund the money, you're pulling that out of the mutuel pool.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Right. That's true.

**Audience Member:** Most of the time, I would agree with you, but there are times that we do have exceptions to starting gate incidences. The horse gets held in the gate and finishes first, it does not become in most jurisdictions, a non-starter. We'd make that exception, so once we start making one exception, I don't necessarily as an executive, or a past executive director, want my Stewards to start trying to recreate races, but at the same time I don't want them to not use any gray matter at all to try to logic through some of this. I understand it's hard.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Okay, but just — real fast here — I think that what you describe are two separate and distinct incidents. One is an unfair start and the other horse is not breaking or being interfered. They're completely different and I think they should be addressed completely different.

Secondly, when we make the decision, and I am cognizant because I was in management about the pool, I have to protect the public. That is the final decision that we need, is to protect the betting public and the fairness of their money, because without their money there would be no betting pool.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Right.

**Audience Member:** I guess I would say you need to protect both sides of that, of that public, because again if you take the money out of the pool I understand that you're giving it to the people whose horse jumped out, and then finished ninth in my scenario, but you're also taking that money away from every other wagerer in that race, that bet on one of the horses that finished first, second, third, or wherever. So, there's two sides to that public dollars.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Sure, I understand.

**Audience Member:** Just to clarify so if you did a disqualification, money stays in, versus the non-starter wherein the money comes out?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Right.

**Audience Member:** That was one of those options you made, DQ or —

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** You bet, right.

**Audience Member:** — a nonstarter.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Yeah, there are a lot, and while you're talking about that there are other options that Stewards have, and sometimes unfortunately you have to make decisions like this. You don't like to do them, but you have to do them, and that's a horse race is for purse only. I mean, that's another complication that comes up in the stand at times. So anyway, we'll move on to interference incidents now?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Interference, right. A horse, and most rules, and ours are a jockey may take a horse anywhere on the racetrack, at his discretion, as long as in doing so he does not interfere with the progress of any other horse in the race. Then, when that happens and there is an infraction, and there might be a possible disqualification. So, most of the rules are similar in most states, and we try to — it's like a referee in a basketball

game. We're cognizant that there's a lot of — jockeys are very competitive. The horses are extremely competitive.

We don't want to take the competitiveness out of the jockeys by over-regulating, so they're afraid to go near another horse or challenge another horse, because horses run. When you put two thoroughbreds alongside together, they run harder than when they're far apart. They're competitive animals and they like that challenge, and they go ahead and try harder. So, that's why you see jockeys stay close to each other, because they think they get their horse to accept the challenge and go on with the race.

So, we try not to over-regulate, but at the same time you must not let that interfere with the safety of the race, of the animal and the jockey, and the betting public that you would really want the best horse in the race that day to win the race.

So, obviously, that leads to we're going to show you a couple of, an incident here of disqualification or non-disqualification. You can play this. This is one of those gray areas that we come to. Okay. Can we — oh, we'll do it again? Okay, here we go.

**Audience Member:** I think that's all we get.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Okay. So, and this is, and here's — real quick, I'm going to let you folks be the Stewards, here. Was there an incident in the race? Raise your hand if there was an incident in the race. All right. Then secondly, did the incident merit a disqualification? Raise your hand if you would take this horse number down? Pretty good. I think you all pass. Wendy, remember.

[Laughter]

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Pass your card around here, we might have some.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Some ROAP?

[Laughter]

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yeah. But anyhow, as you see that, he did come over. He did cross in front of that horse, didn't he? He was marginally clear, but it is a great example of the, did it affect the placing of that second horse? It would be difficult for you, for us to convince you, or anybody else, that it did, but yes, there was an incident.

Now that we get into, it's a great leeway into it's a foul-foul. You know, I'm going to back to my spiel. When I started riding, a foul was never a foul. In that, you hear that out east in New York if you bother another horse, no matter what happens you're coming down. It really has never been the case since 1960-something that I started riding.

You came down when you crossed interference and it mattered, that your interference that you did, it mattered. You bother a horse, that horse you got in his way, you stopped that horse from having his best performance. That's always been the case. Now, we have taken it one step further, and I think that's probably because of the public.

I think I touched a little bit ago on this, is that if the interference, like here, did not change the outcome of the race, horses finish where they were to, then the Stewards most likely will not disqualify that horse. It doesn't mean that the jockey will not be penalized for his infractions, but that's the next day. He has to justify why he allowed the horse to come out.

Did this jockey see that horse coming? He'll probably most likely tell you he didn't. I would tell you that he did. I used to be able to see what was coming behind me. Did I have eyes behind my — no, just a slight move of the head, you know exactly what the picture that's behind you, or try to, because that's where you have to do that, to keep your lead, to go where you want to go.

So, that is the change that we're experiencing now from when we were 20 years ago, that the stewards are interpreting a foul a little differently. We're taking into the consideration the outcome of the race. Was the outcome of the race affected, and if it was, then you're disqualified. If in your opinion it doesn't, then you don't.

I personally think it's the best way to address it. I think the public should be protected and a horse that finishes, you don't want to disqualify a horse that finishes first because he bothered a horse that finishes eighth that's going to move up to seventh. Maybe he might have been sixth, maybe.

You're playing with the race, but at the same time I think the public is protected better that way. The whole idea of horse racing is that the best horse wins the race on that particular day.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** That's a good point. You should leave it on the track as much as possible. Let the race determine the payoff and the purse awards and things of that nature. On the other hand, if a horse did finish first and interfered clearly with the horse that was eighth or seventh, and the reason that horse finished seventh or eighth is that it never got its race back together if the interference was that serious, then you have to make the action there. You have to place that horse from first to eighth, and everything else moves up accordingly.

There are times when that happens. It's not something you look forward to or want to do, but you have to do it.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** As you can see on the screen, the word "may," it's underlined and you always find it in rules. That is because it allows the people making the decision the right to interpret what they feel may have happened in the race, rather than "shall disqualify a horse." If we have the word "shall" in there, then that incident you saw would most likely merit a different decision by the stewards.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Entries. Talk about it first and then play it?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Here's a — yeah, or we can play it as we talk.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** All right, can you play that, please?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Here's another one that comes up more than we'd like to see it. When there's an entry in the race, and one part of the entry interferes with another horse, it may or may not have given — and there's the word "may," again. May or may not have given his entry mate an unfair advantage. So, do they both are disqualified? Or, only one?

Again, I'm going to back to, in our jurisdiction is the Stewards may disqualify if both horses, if they feel it was an intentional interference that the one jockey did it to benefit the other part of his entry. So, if it was an intentional interference, which is very difficult to prove, by the way, but it has happened. Then, we will disqualify. If we could not prove that the

jockey intentionally interfered with one horse to benefit his entry-mate, then we would only disqualify the horse that was interfered with.

Could we play it again?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** It's running now.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Oh, it's running now?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Yeah. See the four horse moving up in there?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Uh-huh.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Slowed down a little bit.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Um-hmm. You see the incident? It's on the rail. The horse with the shadow roll.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Again, you could do it, does it warrant an inquiry?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Again, yeah, does it warrant an inquiry? You see a jockey stand up back there, you most likely would want to take a look at this. Then, the horse that came if I recall this race correctly, yeah, here we go again. Watch the — as you know, or you probably watch enough races, when horses go into the turn they all change leads and when they change leads, they all go into the turn. As they change leads, their weight shifts. The horse moves in, so you always, always know that a horse that is in front of you is going to shift about half a length in when he changes leads.

He's on this lead, heads into the turn, he goes, his weight goes, the jockey's weight goes, into that. The jockey doesn't want to keep his weight opposite the horse, that's going to interfere with the horse's momentum. So, you just go with the horse, and they all do it, except that if a horse is in front of you, he's going to do it before your horse does it.

In this case you saw that, but you also saw that the horse that was the one horse that was in front, he came over about two paths, and the jockey on the horse that was inside that eventually checked, he should have seen that coming. That was going to happen, he didn't. He should either have gotten up in there so that doesn't happen, or had gotten back, but nevertheless he was partially interfered with, by the outside horse.

Did that interference give the other horse that eventually won the race an unfair advantage? In our jurisdiction it would have to be, did he intentionally do that, to give that other horse an unfair advantage? I don't know that — that jockey, who was on the lead horse, knew where the part of the entry was. The part of the entry did not get an unfair advantage, because he didn't benefit by it in any other way.

So, I would, I personally would have had a hard time disqualifying this horse, both horses, for this incident. I might have disqualified the ones that bothered from place money, actually. He would get the win because the other horse won, but he would not get, he finished second or third. The purse money, he would have been disqualified, placed behind the four horse, I believe it was the four. He would have then lost that part of it, he would have lost the purse money. The public would have got their money, but the owner would not have gotten the purse money.

So, but again, that's one of those things that again it's — they're not easy decisions to make. They really are, and at the time, you have thousands of people, hundreds of thousands of dollars waiting for your decision, so you have to bite the bullet and decide best what you've been trained to do and follow the guidelines that you're set.

**Audience Member:** Sir?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Yes, sir.

**Audience Member:** Can I just restate that and sort of say, internalize it, and try and understand?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Sure.

**Audience Member:** In that last clip, then, what you're suggesting is the horse that was out in front because they were turning, changed leads and so it shifted lanes a little? And you also felt like he was not aware of the horse trying to come up on the inside, so there was no foul?

**Eddie Arroyo:** Oh no, I think — no, I did say that, but I didn't say I didn't think it was a foul. I think there was a foul. I think that the —

**Audience Member:** So, there was an incident?

**Eddie Arroyo:** There was an —

**Audience Member:** But it did not affect the outcome of the race?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Well, it didn't affect, it wouldn't — I would not have disqualified the other horse. The other part of the entry. Remember, we're talking about a second part of the entry. The other part of the entry here was about three or four lengths back at that time. He didn't benefit from that, in my opinion he didn't benefit from that incident. So, the horse that crossed in front would have been disqualified, but not the other part of the entry that was three or four lengths back at the time.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** So, what Eddie's saying here, is that this is a two-step dance. You have to consider when you have entries in races, and there's interference, whether they're — especially on the giving end of interference, whether or not that interference was intentional, or whether it was by design to prohibit another horse from getting its best finish. If so, would you take the entry mate down regardless? So, in other words, you've got a horse that finishes first, and you're going to say that he caused interference, does he get placed behind the entry mate? That's the issue there.

**Audience Member:** So what if, would your decision have been any different had these not been entry mates?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Well, you wouldn't have to worry about —

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** You wouldn't have had to worry about the entry mate.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Because he's got a different saddle pad on, and if they were uncoupled, he would just be any number in the field, and as Eddie said, that horse that was the entry mate was three or four lengths away from the incident. So, what you have to do

aside from determining whether or not there's interference or not, then you have to look at was it by design to keep this horse — maybe it was the morning line favorite or the best horse in the race on paper — but in this particular race, are you going to take action that also says that the entry caused intentional interference to that horse, was subjected to interference, with intent to keep it getting its best finish? Then you take the other part of an entry down. You take 1, and 1A, down.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Let's just assume for the sake of the discussion, that 1 won the race. The horse that bothered, that came across and made that horse check, let's say he won the race. The horse that was interfered with was third, and the entry mate, the 1A, was second. One, 1A, 4, was the order of finish. If you feel that the 1 interfered with the 4, do you take the 1 down? Or do you take the 1 and 1A down? You make the 4 the winner, and that's the question that's before the stewards at the time. You're going to disqualify both horses?

So, under our rules if we find that the incident was an intentional incident, then we may disqualify both horses even though the 1A had no part in the incident at all, but he in our opinion, he got an unfair advantage.

If he didn't get an unfair advantage, then we would not — we would disqualify the 1 but not the 1A. So, the outcome would still be the same, 1 or 1A, that the public would get their money. That's kind of it.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Steve?

**Audience Member:** Do you ever take pace into consideration, and like past performances when you're making those decisions? Let's say the 4 horse was a rabbit in the race, and the 1 horse caused interference with that 4 horse, totally changes the pace of the race and the 1A goes on to win. Do you ever take that into consideration? Or, even like the false start situation where if I bet that horse because I expect him to run way off the lead, he gets out in front of the field where he's not supposed to be, never has ran that in his past performances, he winds up finishing dead last because he's not used to running on the lead. Do you ever take that into consideration? I say that because I've seen the stewards results from foreign jurisdictions that say, you know what, this horse never ran on the lead, you ran him on the lead, you did something wrong in this. May not disqualify them for the race, but the jockey may get days in that. Do you ever look at the past performances, and take that into consideration?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** I look at the past performances before the race, just to familiarize myself with the race, and you just kind of have an idea how the race is going to develop. I normally, I do know that this is a speed horse, and usually they tell you if a speed horse doesn't break well, he's going to be trying to get to the lead because that's his nature.

However, am I going to make the decision, base a decision on the past performance of this horse? I stay away from that. I try not to touch that at all. I will be imposing my opinion on the race, and I don't think that's my job. My job is to adjudicate what's there on that film, whether the interference did occur or not as to where, how the race set up. I think it would be going in a different direction than maybe I should be going, or we should be going.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** To Steve's point on the other side, on the standard-bred side, I think looking at form is important because of equipment and because of breaks, and looking at horses that have a pattern of repetitive breaking, I think that should be certainly factored in when you have an inquiry or an objection. If a horse is prone to going off stride, it may

not take much. I'm not saying it precludes a call of interference or placing, but knowing what horses do in a race by their past performance can have some bearing on what goes on.

Eddie obviously looks at the performance of every horse in the race, and you're looking for how a race would set up because we have a bigger obligation of protecting the wagering public in total. We have to look, make sure that the form is upheld and that the race looks right, and it comes across properly.

Also, every jockey should know the horse that he's riding, and driver the horse that he's driving, and realize that horses that are not speed horses, as he said, you've got a four go in a race, he's going to have a lot of problems because he's got obstacles in front of him that he's got to pass. So, you can encounter more interference.

**Audience Member:** Just to kind of back up Steve's question, I have the opportunity to do this program with a group of international racing aficionados, they are not necessarily stewards, but they certainly have watched and wagered on a number of races. Steve, they can't believe that we don't take that into consideration. It's the hardest thing for them to get into their mind that they are just officiating what they see on the racetrack, and so just to reiterate, that is not how it's done in the rest of the world, or in many countries.

**Audience Member:** Is that the advantage you're giving to a horse may not be really obvious, but if you take a rabbit out of the race, you've given all the other horses a huge advantage in this, and so — has not been but maybe should be. I'm not saying it has been, but maybe you should be.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** I think you have a point, and I've followed that because the reason that it's interesting to me that in Asian countries, that if you are going to — if you have a speed horse, and you are decided that it's probably in the best interest over that horse performance to not be in the lead, you have to declare that to the stewards before the race. So, you have to tell them that I'm going to take this horse, I'm not going to send this horse to the lead.

So, their transparency in some aspects is way beyond ours, in how they do things, and I like that they report and try to make everything available to the public. Then there are a lot of other things that if you look at the races, a horse could shut off and go down to his knees and the jockey flip over, get back on the horse, and they won't disqualify him. They have different interpretations of it, but it's interesting, and a good point there.

**Audience Member:** I had a question as we're wrapping up that's a little off what you were talking about. The most common belief, I think among horse players about the stewards is, if it's a steward's inquiry the horse might come down. If it's a jockey claim, there's a less likely chance that the horse will come down. Is there any data that deals with that subject one way or another?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** I don't know that there's any data, but I will probably tell you, you're probably right. Give you a little insight here, we as stewards, we watch every race, obviously. There are a lot of races, you remember the race that we all played Stewards here for a bit? Most likely, if I saw that, I don't know that I would put up the inquiry because we have the ability to, the minute they cross that finish line in our office, we go back and look at that same incident two, three, four times. Before the horses go an eighth of a mile past the finish line, I might have looked at that three or four times. The other stewards have too.

Let's look at this. If we felt like it was probably necessary to put up an inquiry, we would not probably do it in that incident. Now, if the jockey claimed foul, then you all voted not to take it down. So, would you have put up the inquiry sign in that incident? That's the question. Do you think it was necessary, did it merit an inquiry?

That's a decision we'd make, and you try to be consistent. If you think you're going to take the horses down, or you see an incident that merits an inquiry, put it up even though you change your mind and say, "No, this is not what it is, we thought it was." But yes, you're probably right. I think that if somebody were to do that research, I think inquiries have a bigger tendency to be disqualified than the jockey claim of foul.

Jockeys claim foul for a lot of reasons other than being interfered with, so. That was one, that's why, I'm speaking from experience, here. So, we'll go on to this.

Here are the other things that we try to, as far as consistency, and this is I guess where ROAP comes in. We try to do things the same way. What happens in an incident when there is a dead heat, and a horse in the dead heat is involved in an inquiry or a claim of foul? You are, let's say you are going to disqualify, we don't have the charge here. The charge here, but we'll look at this race.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** This is the model rule that when a dead heat is in run for second place and an objection is made to the winner of the race, and sustained, the horses which ran a dead heat shall be deemed to have run a dead heat for first place.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** There's an incident here. I think that the horse with the shadow roll that's on the outside, now, he got the check. He finished, and the horses that beat him, one of them finished in a dead heat in front of him. So, and you're going to disqualify? So, what do you do?

The rule is, and we're taught, that if it's a dead heat and you're disqualifying a horse, you can disqualify a horse for interference from a dead heat, but what if the dead heat, the horse that — that's one incident.

The second incident, the winner bothered one of the horses in the dead heat for second, so you're going to disqualify him. Do you take him, put him in the dead heat for second, or do you make him third, or do you disqualify him and move the dead heat up? You cannot, we're taught as consistency purposes, we never break up a dead heat unless it's to disqualify a horse from the dead heat. So, any time that there's a dead heat, and that is someone in front of them is being disqualified for bothering one of them, they both move up.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Right, so the adage to remember is you can never make a dead heat, but you can break one. So, when you break, it's going down. It's for part of the dead heat, whether it's a two-horse or a three-horse dead heat, part of that is placed lower in the race, but it cannot make one going up. As Eddie was saying, if you had a winner that bothered part of a dead heat, even though only part of that was bothered, the dead heat moves up because that's how they finished. It's second and third shared, so it now becomes first and second shared.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** We're getting pretty close to the time, and I wanted to give you folks some times, if you have any other questions. If you have questions that you would like to ask, I see we have some.

**Ms. Wendy Davis:** If you come to the mic, it'll be easier because we can hear in the back, so.

**Audience Member:** Does anybody else have a question, or could I ask one?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Go ahead.

**Audience Member:** Okay. On that last slide, I don't mean to be dumb, but I'm missing that all together. I understand it ended in a dead heat, but I didn't understand the problem we were trying to address. If it's important, would you mind going over it again? Maybe even play the film and explain to me what's going on?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Okay. There was interference in that, and we don't have the charts, unfortunately, but there was —

**Audience Member:** The horse with the shadow roll was the interferer, is that correct?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** That's correct.

**Audience Member:** Okay.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** His room was taken away, did you see the jockey have to check?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Here we go, I'm trying to run this thing.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** I don't know if this is the race. Oh, yeah, it is.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** So, they pass the mirror, there's a dead heat in there. The first thing is, you get the order of finish. You know you have to get back to this, but the first and the most critical thing in the protocols of the stand and stewards is the proper order of finish. When there is a dead heat, you have to put that down in your flow and keep it. Two horses, let's say it's two and three knotted up, DH, and you put a circle on them. They have to travel together, unless part of that dead heat bothered another horse, and you're going to break it, but you're not going to make one. You're not going to make one up. Are we addressing your question?

**Audience Member:** So, someone said the dead heaters were third, is that right?

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Well, it's — a dead heat is always two places shared.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** It's actually for fourth, yes.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** It would be third and fourth.

**Audience Member:** The dead heat was for third.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Right, all right. So, dead heat for third means that you go one, two, three-dead heat, and the next position really is fifth because the two, the dead heat horses shared two positions in a two-horse dead heat.

**Audience Member:** Thank you.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** The winner there, interfered. The horse on the outside interfered with the horse with the shadow roll, so therefore those two horses, and the horse in the shadow roll finished in a dead heat. So, the winner is disqualified, those two horses move up.

**Audience Member:** Thank you.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** There was one other question?

**Audience Member:** It would be a fairly rare circumstance, but I do recall one race where there was a catastrophic breakdown and a majority of the horses did not finish the race. It was just that bad. Is there some standard of the minimum number of horses within a race that have to finish for the race itself to be considered official?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** In our state, no. After the start of the race, whoever crosses the finish line first without any other incident, whether it's one horse or two horses or three, they're the winner. The only time that we take into consideration that, is if the starting gate were to malfunction and the majority of the horses, or a specific number of horses under the rules, did not — the gates didn't open but three or four did, and then that would be, that race would be called.

I would go back to Steve's — about the rabbit. As you know a few years ago, back more than four years ago, we used to have — or we still do in some states, coupled entries and non-coupled entries, and we did away with the different owner-same trainer as an entry, at least in our state we did. Now, there's even talk about doing away with coupling same-owner entry.

I firmly believe that when a trainer or an owner put a horse in the race that particular horse shall run for his own account and not be part of any other entity or considered part of any other entities. He should run the best available race for him. He should not be trying to set a false pace or anything else for any other horse in the race.

That's my own opinion. There are some states and in some countries there are no coupled entries, same owner or different owners. So, I think that hopefully one day the industry will move in that direction. I think it's an integrity issue that — now we've always done it that way, but that does not always make it right. I think the horses should run the best possible ability for that particular horse and that particular race. Yes?

**Audience Member:** Why do we even couple horses?

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** I'm going to tell you that the answer that I've always heard, we've always done it that way. I don't know, I really can't answer you. I don't know how or where to start it.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Coupling has to do with the pari-mutuel side of it. In theory there are two worlds that come together in racing. One is the race in itself for the participants, and as Eddie just said, every horse should get its best possible finish based on the work of the trainer, putting the foundation on the horse, the strategy and skill of the rider and anything else going on, but if they are owner-trainer entries, and they don't have to be limited to two, they usually get coupled for wagering purposes because they're all coming out of the same barn, and it's probably to address things that have been, as Eddie said, part of the tradition that you might have one horse in there that's going to set a pace that might be a little false, but that favors a stalking horse or a horse that's coming off the pace.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Our rules, as our horses have origin in Europe and England, and France, and a lot of our rules kind of came over and they were established here that way, but this coupling of entries I think it might be just an American invention because the Europeans don't couple, do they? I don't ever see an entry in any of the European races.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** No, and Canada won't take coupled races for simulcast purposes, in Ontario some of them.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Well, Wendy, how are we doing for time?

**Ms. Wendy Davis:** We've got, I think we've used our time.

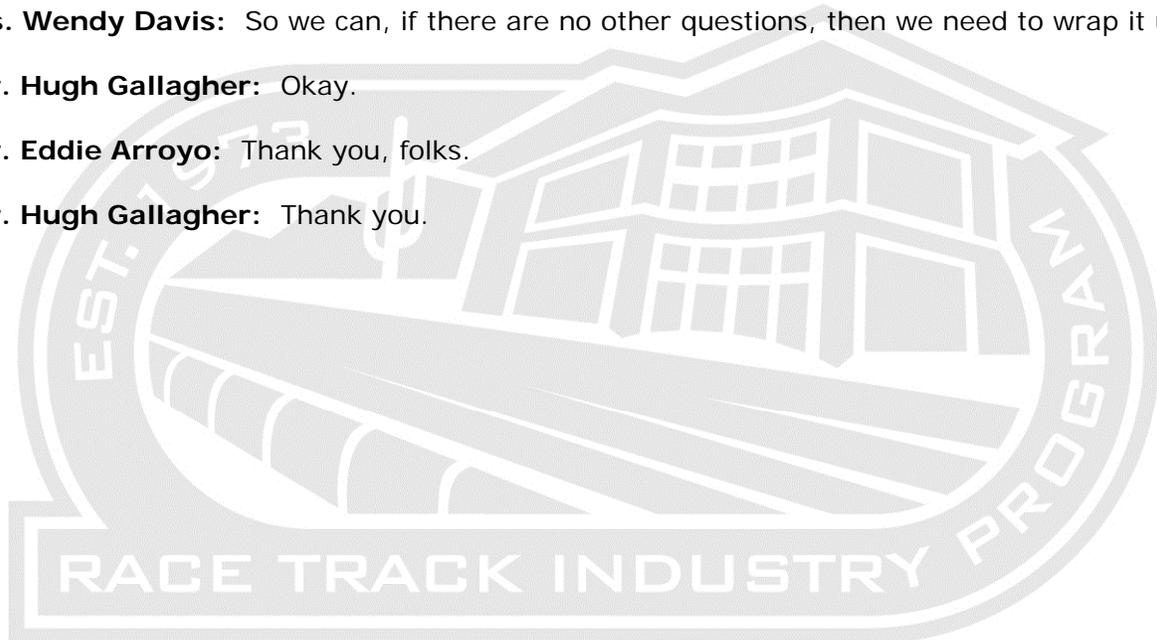
**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Okay.

**Ms. Wendy Davis:** So we can, if there are no other questions, then we need to wrap it up.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Okay.

**Mr. Eddie Arroyo:** Thank you, folks.

**Mr. Hugh Gallagher:** Thank you.



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