

2011 Points of Emphasis

1. Proper use and reciprocity of all lists through the use of the InCompass system
 - Almost every race office in the U.S. has access to the InCompass RTO System. The RTO contains the various lists – Stewards', Vet's, Starter's, Bleeders, etc. – from each racetrack. All jurisdictions have now agreed to share “read only” access to these lists. The ROAP web-site has a tutorial on how to properly utilize these lists at <http://www.horseracingofficials.com/default.asp?id=9>. Stewards should request their racing office to notify them if any horse wanting to enter is on a list prior to entering the horse. The stewards should then determine if the horse should be allowed to enter, pending being given an off date, or if the horse should be deemed ineligible until it has an off date on the list. Only the track that put the horse on the list can enter an off date.
 - No matter which decision is reached, the trainer should be informed that his/her horse is on list and he should contact the racetrack or racing commission where the horse is on the list to determine what has to be done to have the horse removed. The stewards and race office should provide advice, contact numbers and possibly assistance for the trainer to accomplish this objective. Under no circumstances should a horse be allowed to race if it is on a Stewards', Vet's or Starter's list if your jurisdiction says that a horse on one of these list is ineligible to enter and/or race.
 - Please remember that these lists should not be used to keep vet's, starter's, stewards' or race office notes on a horse. The RTO System has applications to allow notes to be kept for use at that track only, or to be shared with other regulatory vets, starters or stewards. Also, remember that individual licensees can be placed on horsemen's lists by the track and/or stewards in the RTO System.
2. Review track safety rules, procedures and standards with all track management, officials and horsemen and establish track safety committees.
 - The NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance maintains an extensive Code of Standards and Best Practices that can be utilized by you racetracks and racing commission. The Jockeys' Guild, AQHA and USTA also have recommendations on safety standards.
3. Stay up to date on current and new rules, policies and directives in your specific jurisdiction and initiate model rule implementation.
 - Working closely with the RCI Model Rules Committee, ROAP will provide web-site and e-mail notifications on newly adopted or proposed Model Rules for your consideration and consideration in your jurisdiction. Obviously, the racing commissions should utilize the expertise of their stewards and racing officials in adopting rules and regulations in their jurisdiction. Racing commissions must also make sure that stewards, racing officials and track management know of rules, regulations and stipulated procedures that are pending or have been adopted. The horsemen, jockeys, track management and other participants, obviously, must be involved and informed in the rule making process.

4. Enforcement of the use of the whip and/or racing crop rules and regulations in your jurisdiction (including that the racing crop meets the minimum standards and specifications) and if not adopted in your state, advocate for the model rule ARCI-010-035, A(1) and E(7).
 - The adoption and enforcement of this Model Rule on a national basis by racing commissions should be a safety and integrity priority in every jurisdiction. When jockeys are allowed to use whip or riding crops that have varying degrees of force at impact, an unfair advantage is achieved. Stewards and racing officials in the Jockeys' Room should be inspecting the whips and riding crops on a daily basis no matter what rule is in affect in your jurisdiction. The current Model Rule is very specific on the specifications of the riding crop, but a number of whip makers have been modifying whips and making riding crops that do not adequately meet these specifications. With a tape measure, postage or cooking scale and a trained eye, stewards and racing officials can tell the difference between riding crops that meet and do not meet the Model Rule specifications. In addition, whips or riding crops that are frayed, or the shaft is broken inside the flapper, or otherwise damaged should not be allowed. It is recommended that racetracks keep a number of approved riding crops for use by and for sale to jockeys whose whips or riding crops are not acceptable. One source for approved riding crops that is recognized by The Jockey Club, National Steeplechase Association, British Horse Racing Board and the Jockeys' Guild is Old Mill Saddlery at <http://www.saddlery.biz/riding-wear/riding-whips/personalised-whips.html>. The Jockey Club Safety Committee is also researching equipment that may be able to test the impact of whips and riding crops to help further establish specifications and certification of manufacturers.
5. Ensure that clear and concise verbal and written explanations of stewards' decisions and rulings are given to the media and public especially regarding claims of foul or inquiries including non calls.
 - This should be standard protocol at all racetracks and racing jurisdictions. A number of racetracks and jurisdictions such as NYRA, CHRB and the Hong Kong Jockey Club have developed stewards' race incident reporting and/or stewards' daily report formats. ROAP recommends the use of daily reports that can be posted on the track and racing commission web-sites, as well as, always utilizing the announcer and TV monitors to thoroughly explain and visually demonstrate through race reply with illustrators (circles, arrows and other highlighters) their reasons for disqualifying, placings or not disqualifying in all cases of interference, inquiries and objections (claims of foul). A ROAP recommended Stewards' Report Form can be found at <http://www.horseracingofficials.com/resources/stewards.pdf>.