

2012 ROAP Points of Emphasis

1. Reciprocity - Lists and Licensees

Lists - When taking entries and the InCompass RTO System shows that a horse is on a list (Starter, Vet, Steward), the stewards and racing office should make every effort to contact the track and/or commission that put the horse on the list to facilitate taking the horse off the list. Entries may be taken, but the horse should be off the list before the draw, especially if there is an also-eligible list for the race.

Licensees – State rules and regulations in virtually all states require a license applicant to be in good standing everywhere, and those that are suspended, license denied or refused, ineligible for a license, or are not in good standing in any jurisdiction per their application or RCI database are required to be restored to good standing before they can be licensed in that state.

2. Test Barn and Laboratory - Familiarity with the standard operating procedures and their application to operations.

Stewards should be well-versed with the operations and standard operation procedures for the test barn as required by the racing commission and the drug testing laboratory. They should visit the test barn before the race meet begins and routinely after the races while horses are still being collected to make sure commission, lab and stewards' protocols are being followed. Most of the rulings for positive lab reports violations that are reversed by the commission or courts on appeal are for errors in collection, chain of custody or contamination in the test barn.

3. Stay up to date on current and new rules, policies and directives in your specific jurisdiction and initiate model rule implementation.

It goes without saying that stewards should be well-versed with the racing rules and regulations in their state, especially new ones. In addition, the stewards should be proactive with racetrack management in making sure the horsemen are aware of new rules and regulations, especially as they relate to licensure, entries, running of

the races, permitted medications and drug testing, again especially new ones. Finally, stewards should always be thinking of new rules and regulations and monitoring RCI Model Rules that could improve the racing program in their state and bring their state's rules and regulations in line with surrounding states.

4. Stable Rosters and Employees - Maintaining current and accurate information and making effective use of the information.

This is important, especially with the issues of undocumented workers, workers' compensation insurance and maintaining security in the barn area. This begins with racetracks and commissions enforcing the rule that licensees must carry and show their license badge upon request when in restricted areas. Then, stewards and the licensing office should enforce the rules about trainers maintaining current stable rosters. This will help avoid cases where unlicensed individuals are living in the barn area and when licensees are working for someone other than the trainer that signed their license and may not be covered by workers' compensation insurance. Having grooms that are licensed as owners to avoid workers compensation insurance requirements or allow them access to restricted parking areas is another problem that can be addressed with accurate trainers' rosters.

5. Racing Office & InCompass - Understanding the racing office procedures and InCompass to provide accurate and timely information for horsemen and the public.

Stewards should always be well-versed on the procedures, policies and protocols of the racing office to help avoid the potential for problems. Stewards should meet with the racing secretary prior to the race meet to make sure all racing office staff understand the commission rules and regulations on taking entries, checking eligibility, setting up the races for the draw, etc. In addition, the InCompass RTO System is a valuable resource for the stewards, and at least one steward in every office should be thoroughly versed in all of the information, validations and reports that the InCompass RTO System can provide.

6. Media Communication Training - Training and coordination of media communication with commissions and associations.

Communications with the media is especially important to encourage more positive publicity for horse racing and reduce the potential for misinformed media representatives. At least one steward in every office should receive media training in order to be an effective spokesperson to the media for a variety of reason – pre-meet publicity, educating media on the regulation of horse racing, explaining decisions on interference during the running of a race, providing information, if possible, on drug test positives, etc. The stewards should also be in regular communications with track management and horsemen’s representative associations and be available to join both the track and horsemen in the publicizing and promotion of horse racing.