



Racing Officials Accreditation Program



NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Issue 3

July 2009

Upholding the integrity of racing is our most important responsibility

Calendar of Events

Continuing Education Seminars

NSA	Sept 17
Washington	Sept 21-22
Delaware	Nov 9-10
U of Louisville	Nov 17-18

Accreditation Schools

U of Louisville	Nov 11-18
Puerto Rico	TBA

ROAP Board meeting
To be held in
Lexington, KY
September 21, 2009

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Message from Stan Bowker



In these critical times of economic despair the racing industry needs to stand together to uphold the integrity of our sport. As I told you in our last newsletter, ROAP has moved forward in launching the On Call Stewards Program. I invite you to read more about the program on the following page of the newsletter.

At the last RCI meeting held April 23 in Lexington, Kentucky several changes were approved to the existing model rules. Issues dealing with trainer suspensions, TC02 testing and split sample procedures were just a few of the topics discussed.

To view rules adopted at the April meeting please visit the ROAP website and click on "Model Rules." The next RCI meeting will be held July 31 in Del Mar, California.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to attend the Conference on

Officiating Horse Racing, which will be held at the University of Arizona Racing Symposium in December. The agenda is quite impressive, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Tucson. Registration forms are now available on the ROAP website.

I encourage you to interact with ROAP by participating on a committee, sending in videos for our library or hosting a CE. Don't forget to look at the ROAP directory and make sure your information is correct and current.

We would love to hear from you. Please send articles, letters, and commentary to be considered for inclusion in the next newsletter.

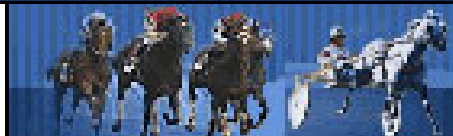
Best Regards,

Stan Bowker



Conference on Officiating Horse Racing

Save the Date
December 7, 2009



Registration forms can be obtained online at
www.horseracingofficials.com

THE PRESS OF RACING... ON CALL STEWARDS PREPARE TO TALK TO THE MEDIA

By Joan McGrath and Myrna Pedersen

Lights up! Camera rolling! Microphone poised! Questions thrown: “As a racing steward, do you feel unanimity in stewards’ decisions is really a good thing?” “How often do you see intentionally disruptive riding?” “Have the new synthetic surfaces truly added to the safety of racing?”

The recipients of these tough probes could have been on national television. But they weren’t. They were taking part in simulated broadcast interviews as part of a daylong “Stewards On Call” media training session in Chicago. And the challenging questions weren’t being asked by network anchors live on the air. They were being posed by us, former journalists and now communication consultants who have been helping leaders of the horse industry for the past two decades to be more effective in getting across their positive messages about equine sports.

On June 22, six of your steward colleagues —Eddie Arroyo, Stan Bowker, Hugh Gallagher, Frank Lamb, Denny Oelschlager and Kim Sawyer—participated in our “On Call” Media Training.

They had been chosen by ROAP for their extensive expertise and native communication skills to be “On Call Stewards”—the conduit between the news media covering high profile races and the viewing audience who may not understand how disputes are handled and what the rules are that govern a race-specific objection.

“On Call” is modeled on an 18-year-old program launched by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Communication-trained “spokes-veterinarians” are available on site to immediately go on camera in the event of a race-day injury to interpret in lay language the condition of the horse and the medical care it is receiving.

We are proud to have designed and delivered the media training to the majority of the “On Call” vets since the inception of AAEP’s program in 1991. One of our early trainees, veterinarian DeWitt Owen, DVM, dubbed the Pedersen/McGrath training “Outward Bound for the mind!”

ROAP’s “Stewards On Call” is a win/win concept, designed to:

- help the media provide more authoritative, well rounded coverage
- help racetracks underscore the scope of their vigilance in protecting the betting public
- help the lay audience understand the rules and regulations of racing
- help enhance the integrity of the steward system and the image of racing

During an intense eight-hour session, we provide background to make industry experts understand the way the media works and how they can help reporters deliver well-informed sports coverage. We provide preparation and rehearsal for handling tough questions (from *any* individual, not only the press) and for accurately and objectively explaining events in high stakes races. We make spokesmen and women *more comfortable, confident and in control* when they are in the potentially unsettling spotlight of the print and electronic media.

The Jockey Club Executive Director Dan Fick noted, “This program is invaluable preparation for handling any important presentation, especially the very visible and critical communication with the national press. I’ve taken Joan and Myrna’s training and I know it is exhausting, exhilarating and indispensable!”

According to Fick, “We greatly appreciate the six veteran stewards who have volunteered to be “On Call” and inaugurate this new role in our industry. ROAP hopes eventually to broaden the program. In addition to being authoritative resources in the event of race incidents, we want stewards to be on-air talent, color commentators and key spokesmen for print and broadcast feature interviews.”

As the teachers who helped them become “media ready,” we wish them many years of good press!



“Strengthening the Integrity of Racing”

For information on important medication and drug testing research funded by RMTTC and its industry-wide stakeholders, please visit us at:

www.rmtcnet.com

Announcements



Online Harness Racing TV Show Launched by USTA

Columbus, OH -Put your "Eye on Harness Racing," every Thursday at www.ustrotting.com, with the U.S. Trotting Association's new weekly feature racing show. Hosted by John Pawlak, "Eye on Harness Racing" will preview the racing week ahead and offer interviews, profiles and insights on the top performers in the sport. The show will be posted at 3 p.m. every Thursday at www.ustrotting.com, and then be available on demand at www.youtube.com/ustrotting and the USTA's social networking community, Harnessphere, <http://harnessphere.ustrotting.com>.

USTA Charity Golf Outing to Benefit Youth

Columbus, OH - The USTA will conduct its annual charity golf outing on August 12 at Foxfire Golf Club in Lockbourne, Ohio, with check-in beginning at 9 a.m. and a "shotgun start" at 10 a.m. The event is a two-person scramble with an entry fee of \$55 per golfer.

Anyone needing additional information on sponsorship is asked to e-mail Chip Hastings at chip@ustrotting.com or call (614) 224-2291, extension 3250.



The findings of the Unwanted Horse Coalition's Study on Contributing Factors Surrounding the Unwanted Horse Issue are now available on the UHC website at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org. The study is the first of its kind to assess the causes and magnitude of the unwanted horse population in the United States.



The 36th Annual Symposium on Racing & Gaming, presented by The University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program, will be held

December 7-10 at the Westin La Paloma Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

http://www.ua-rtip.org/symposium/2009/symposium_2009_info.html



The Jockey Club announced that it has established Tattoo Identification Services, a free resource to help owners identify tattooed but unknown Thoroughbreds in their possession.

Information on procuring identification from illegible or partial tattoos, as well as tips for reading lip tattoos and list of frequently asked questions, is available at www.registry.jockeyclub.com.

Notice to Industry: ORC Releases New Standardbred Use of the Whip Rules for Comment

The board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) is circulating rules received from the industry consultation group, formed to review the use of the whip in Ontario horse racing. Industry participants and associations are encouraged to provide any new and material comments by end of day, June 8.



The 2009 National Horsemen's Benevolence and Protective Association will hold its Winter Convention in conjunction with the Symposium on Racing & Gaming at the Westin La Paloma Resort in Tucson, Arizona, this year.

The HBPA will hold their Convention December 4-7, with the Symposium beginning on December 7 and continuing through the 10th. For more information about the NHBPA convention, please visit www.nationalhbpa.com or contact the national office at (866) 245-1711.

To send in announcements (appointments, special events, obituaries, special reports, miscellaneous) please e-mail contactus@horseracingofficials.com



Steeplechase News



2009 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

10:30 a.m.

Friday, August 14, 2009
Saratoga Springs, NY

Honoring Ben Nevis II
& Janet Elliot



Every four years, steeplechase racing gets to share the spotlight with flat racing at the induction ceremony for the **National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame** in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. There is no steeplechase hall of fame, and that's because horses and horsemen from American jump racing are included in the overall Thoroughbred Hall of Fame. On August 14, 2009, trainer Janet Elliot and former timber horse Ben Nevis II will be inducted.

July 26 at Saratoga Race Course don't miss the National Steeplechase Association presenting five races, four jump races and a turf race. There is no pari-mutuel wagering on these races.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

SARATOGA JUMP START , Saratoga Springs, NY	Sunday, July 26
SARATOGA , Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, July 30
SARATOGA , Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, August 6
SARATOGA , Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, August 13
SARATOGA , Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, August 20
SARATOGA , Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, August 27
SARATOGA , Saratoga Springs, NY	Thursday, September 3

FALL SCHEDULE

COLONIAL DOWNS , New Kent, VA	Sunday, September 13
BELMONT PARK , Elmont, NY	Sunday, September 20
MONMOUTH PARK , Oceanport, NJ	Saturday, September 26
SHAWAN DOWNS , Hunt Valley, MD	Saturday, September 26
FOXFIELD FALL , Charlottesville, VA	Sunday, September 27



The Hoof: Inside and Out

Available for free download at

<http://www.grayson-jockeyclub.org/summitDisplay.asp>

Also available, National Uniform Trainer's Test Study Guide \$39.99 (*plus sales tax in KY & NY*)
Contact Cathy McNeely at (859) 224-2728 or cmcneely@jockeyclub.com

Standardbred Committee Takes Action Against Abusive Whip Use

By: Hugh Gallagher

Lexington, KY -The Standardbred Committee of the Association of Racing Commissioners International approved changes to the whipping rule in an effort to crack down on abusive uses of the whip during the running of races. The rule was approved by the committee during a meeting at the Lexington, KY Hilton Downtown Hotel and Conference Center on April 22.

The committee recommended in all Standardbred races the length of the whip shall not exceed 4 feet and the use of a snapper is prohibited. All whips will be inspected by the paddock judge under the direction of the presiding judge and alternation of approved whips is prohibited.

Drivers will be prohibited from whipping the horse below the shaft and stifle area, and the use of any object or stimulating device is prohibited. Drivers are required to keep a line in each hand from the start to the finish of the race. Violations of these rules may result in a fine, suspension, disqualification, and/or commission referral.

“I appreciate the concern and the interaction of Standardbred Canada, United States Trotting Association, and the jurisdictions of Indiana and Kentucky who have laid the groundwork for the drafting of our model rule today,” said Hugh Gallagher, Standardbred committee chairman.

“This important change in direction with serious sanctions will let all participants in Standardbred racing know that we are serious about making changes to the current use and abuse of the whip in Standardbred racing.”

Gallagher said special appreciation goes out to Tom Charters of the Hambletonian Society and Joe Gorajec, executive director of the Indiana Racing Commission, who helped in the drafting of the rule.

“As a result of today’s action, I am most happy for our Standardbred racehorses who now will be raced in a far more humane fashion,” Gallagher said.

Under the recommendations of the committee, the rule change was adopted by the full RCI membership on April 23. The full-text rules can be found on the ARCI website at www.arci.com.



Many Thanks to our Sponsors



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