



Racing Officials Accreditation Program *Newsletter*

April 2007

Volume 1

Message From Stan Bowker, Chairman

Welcome, everyone, to the first installment of the quarterly ROAP newsletter. ROAP is a collaborative effort of many organizations representing all types of racing. Through this participation, they are supporting the common goal of helping ensure the integrity of the pari-mutuel racing industry.

Please be sure to visit our website at www.horseracingofficials.com. There you will find a directory of racing officials, job postings, recommended readings, upcoming events, a race video survey, and more.

If your name is not on the directory or your information is out of date, please fill out the enclosed ROAP Personal Information form and return it to ROAP at the address or fax number provided.

If your name appears in red on the directory, according to our records your continuing education (CE) is out of date. Please remember that in order to remain in good standing you must have 16 hours of CE every two years. More information is available online.

We would love to hear from you – please send articles, letters, commentary and photographs for inclusion in the newsletter. Have a great Spring!
Stan

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 23-28 | RCI Convention
Jackson Hole, WY
*16 hours of Informal CE |
| May 2-3 | UK Equine Law CLE
Lexington, KY
*16 Hours of Informal CE |
| June 4-12 | USTA Accreditation School
Columbus, OH
*Approved 60-hour school |
| Nov. 7-14 | U of L Stewards School
Louisville, KY
*Approved 60-hour school |
| Nov. 12-13 | U of L 16-hour CE
Louisville CE
*16-hour formal CE |

~More information on these events is available on our website.~

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Consistently Inconsistent — 1st International Stewards' Conference
The First Step
By: Dr. Ted Hill

The 1st International Stewards Conference (ISC) was held on January 23, in conjunction with the 31st Asian Racing Conference in Dubai, UAE. The theme of the ARC was "Racing without Borders," reflecting the ever-increasing globalization of racing.

In that context, the ISC was developed with the goal of bringing together stewards and delegates to discuss with authority their countries' rules and report on the proceedings of the conference to their respective jurisdictions. From a broader perspective, the focus was further harmonization of stewards' decisions worldwide.

There were several specific aims:

- International consistency of rules and regulations
- Parity in penalties
- Consistency in conduct of inquiries
- Development of new rules
- List of approved gear for horses
- Safety equipment for riders
- Reciprocity of penalties

The full-day session was chaired by Fin Powrie of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing and attended by representatives from 24 countries. Though beyond the scope of this article to cover each subject, I will attempt to provide some highlights.

Andrew Harding, sec. general of the Asian Racing Federation, spoke on the issue of reciprocity and mandatory penalties. There was general agreement that countries were entitled to apply their own penalty structure, and that trainers and jockeys race under those conditions. Further, it was recommended a mechanism exist in each country to inform all participants of the rules and penalties. This topic was colorfully enhanced by comments from trainer Mike de Kock and jockey Olivier Peslier.

Louis Romanet, chairman of the International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities (IFHA), addressed the conference on matters of integrity and the need for harmonization. Specifically, he cited the considerable difference between France and the UK on the rules of objection. It was interesting to note that under French rule, if the stewards are undecided, the benefit of doubt will go to the alleged interfered horse, resulting in a disqualification.

Dennis Egan, chief executive of the Irish Turf Club, gave an enlightening presentation on safety equipment. Examples of shattered goggles and obviously inferior vests and helmets punctuated the need for an approved list of safety equipment to be used internationally. It was agreed that all countries should make the use of safety vests mandatory for racing, and rules be amended to standardize the weight allowance for their use.

Objections and the principles of ruling on interference received the liveliest discussion. The U.S., alone with India, stood out as unique in dealing with multiple infractions/objections. A California race was used as an example to demonstrate how a disqualified horse may ultimately end up winning, using the commonly accepted approach of dealing with infractions independently in the order of occurrence. It was pointed out that this was not by rule and that another jurisdiction may arrive at a different result. It was agreed that the preferred method of dealing with multiple infractions was the process whereby the "lowest ranked" objection was dealt with first.

This ensures the fairest result and is consistent with the principle of demotion, i.e., the offending horse is placed behind the offended. Horses are disqualified and demoted, they are not "moved up," a distinction sometimes difficult to grasp for horsemen and the public. This topic was revisited the following day during a panel discussion with stewards from several countries. There were some differences, this one in particular, but overall, there was marked agreement on most issues.

There was an interesting discussion on equipment included and excluded in the weighing in/out process, with a thorough list to be compiled and presented later this year. Jockeys also received some attention regarding the use of cell phones, betting and owning horses.

Overall, the conference was both stimulating and encouraging. An enthusiastic and positive attitude prevailed among the participants. No one was naive enough to believe that harmonization was right around the corner, but this was a significant first step.

There was full agreement that the concept of a stewards' conference should continue and that such conferences be open to all members of the Asian Racing Federation and other major racing jurisdictions. Clearly, we share many issues in common around the world of racing. Opportunities provided by such meetings bring us closer together, if only by first illuminating our differences.

MAJOR LEAGUE

By Stan Bowker

Reprinted from *The Blood-Horse*

When I read Ray Paulick's recent essay about the inconsistency among stewards on judging racing interference ("Consistently Inconsistent," *The Blood-Horse*, February 17, 2007), I could certainly share in his frustration.

For the past year, I have served as chairman of the Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP) and I have been actively campaigning for uniformity in the rules and procedures involved in how stewards post inquiries, review the running of the race, handle foul claims, and most importantly, decide disqualifications.

With 38 pari-mutuel horse racing states with 38 different sets of rules, achieving uniformity in anything, especially disqualifications for interference, is a constant challenge. This is one of the reasons the Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP) was started in 2005.

After several months of meetings and discussions initiated by The Jockey Club, representatives from 15 prominent horse racing industry organizations met at the 2005 RCI Convention and officially formed ROAP. The primary goal was to ensure the integrity of horse racing by increasing the professionalism of stewards, judges and other racing officials. While all major league sports have strict programs to train and review umpires, referees and judges, the pari-mutuel horse racing industry had not made the same commitment to excellence through education and experience.

In 1989, the universities of Arizona and Louisville started separate accreditation schools for racing officials. While both schools have done a very commendable job in accrediting over 500 racing officials in the last 17 years, the support of the horse racing industry to provide internships, job placement, regular evaluation and sufficient continuing education has lacked coordination and commitment. A recent ROAP survey showed that only two-thirds of currently working stewards are accredited.

The organizing ROAP board of directors established the following 12-point plan:

- Enhance accreditation schools and continuing education workshops
- Develop a uniform curriculum and examination process
- Publish Racing Officials Resource Guidebook
- Provide website, including a directory of accredited racing officials

- Create a racing incidents video library
- Establish periodic race video analysis for accredited stewards
- Review state rules for uniformity on riding infractions
- Increase recognition of accredited racing officials
- Promote adoption of rules requiring accreditation of stewards and judges
- Educate commissions on the duties and responsibilities of racing officials
- Produce Duties and Responsibilities of Racing Officials video
- Develop recruitment campaign with internships, mentoring and job placement

Mr. Paulick's editorial is an excellent example of why the horse racing industry in this country needs ROAP, and an even better example of the lack of industry support. Determining the cause and degree of interference in the running of a race is a judgment call just like balls and strikes. Because there is a lot of gray area between the black and white calls, consistency takes proper training, experience and constant review.

To accomplish this goal, ROAP is asking racetracks to provide a video tape or DVD of interesting racing incidents on interference and disqualification at the end of each race meet.

In addition, we are asking the racing commissions to require that all stewards be properly accredited at the Arizona and Louisville schools and that they participate in biannual continuing education, especially race video analysis. And, since most racing stewards are accredited, we would like to see tracks identify, in the "racing officials" section of their respective daily track programs, those who are accredited.

While we have accomplished, or are in the process of accomplishing, most of our goals, recognition and financial support of ROAP has been disappointing, to say the least.

The Jockey Club, the USTA, the AQHA, RCI and the TRA have all been consistent supporters, with funding and leadership. But participation from racetracks and horsemen — which have the most to gain — has been limited to Keeneland, Oak Tree, the Meadowlands and Monmouth Park. Despite strong support from RCI, many racing commissions have yet to come on board.

As an industry, we complain about the media and the public not recognizing horse racing as a major league sport. We could take one step toward changing that perception by embracing and supporting the ROAP efforts.

Stan Bowker is the executive secretary of the Virginia Racing Commission and chairman of ROAP.

In My Opinion:

By: Hugh Gallagher, administrator, Delaware Horse Racing Commission

In Delaware, we are working closely as an industry for the betterment of Standardbred racing by establishing and maintaining fair but firm rules, regulations, policies and procedures. We, as other jurisdictions, are very concerned with the major issues that challenge the integrity of Harness Racing. We all know, without a scintilla of doubt, that EPO and other blood-doping substances have ABSOLUTELY no business in horse racing. We know, without a millimeter of doubt, that Aminorex is a dangerous substance that may seriously imperil the safety and welfare of both horse and human. We should diligently investigate what other prohibited and exotic substances are in the marketplace to give a tremendous advantage, but in actuality pose a grave threat to our business.

To those who cheat, I offer this firm, fair and final warning: The risk is not worth the reward. The regulators of horse racing have no tolerance for scurrilous behavior. We have instituted a schedule of progressive penalties designed to eliminate the very worst elements of racing. The windows of opportunity for heinous, illicit activity will be closed.

Louisville CE at Monmouth Park

A total of 42 stewards and judges from across the country attended the University of Louisville Continuing Education Program at Monmouth Park, New Jersey, on March 26-27. The two-day school featured presentations and panel discussions on medication and testing, legal issues, race video analysis, media relations and racing commission protocols. Speakers included Stan Bowker, Dick Hamilton, Hugh Gallagher, Bennett Liebman, Jim Gallagher, Dr. Deborah Lamparter, Bill Passmore, Bill Finley and John Heims. The school was coordinated by Rich Wilcke, who said, "Everyone readily participated in the discussions, video analysis and mock hearings. I though this was a very effective program and all of the attendees seemed well pleased. Monmouth Park staff were terrific hosts, and it was great to see first-hand all they are doing in preparation for this year's Breeders' Cup." The next Louisville CE is November 12-13 in Kentucky.

Arizona Stewards School at Los Alamitos

Sunny California in January was a great spot for the eight-day University of Arizona Steward Accreditation School, which was hosted by Los Alamitos Race Course in Cypress, California. There were 45 candidates for accreditations as racing officials, stewards and harness judges in attendance. An additional 12 accredited stewards participated in a 16-hours continuing education program. The primary

instructors were Clinton Pitts, Leo Connolly and Bill Hicks, with Wendy Davis coordinating the program.

Speakers and topics included: medication and drug testing — Drs. Scott Stanley, Rick Arthur and Scot Waterman; legal — Larry Eliason; rules and regulations — John Ward; and racing data management — Dan Fick. Los Alamitos is the first predominately Quarter Horse race track to host a stewards school, and in addition to visiting all aspects of the racing program during an evening performance, the predominately Thoroughbred and Harness racing attendees received an in-depth session on training racing Quarter Horses from leading trainer Denis Ekins. The school also spent a day touring Santa Anita.

According to Wendy Davis, "Los Al really rolled out the red carpet for us, and the California Horse Racing Board commitment to our school made this a great learning experience for all — students and instructors alike."

Some photos from the recent Stewards Accreditation School in California:

Photos Courtesy of John Keller



The group in front of the starting gate on the hill course at Santa Anita



Classroom Instruction



At the Paddock at Santa Anita



**RACING OFFICIALS ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET**

PRIMARY MAILING ADDRESS

Name _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ Languages Spoken _____

Professional Reference _____

EXPERIENCE (Last Five Years – Attach Extra Page If Necessary)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Track</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Racing Days</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please check whether you have attended the Stewards Accreditation School at
Univ. of Arizona Race Track Industry Program _____ Univ. of Louisville Equine Industry Program _____

If yes, please check one:

- Attended the program but have not satisfied the exams requirement
- Passed all exams; however, have not met the required experience necessary for accredited status
- Accredited: attended the program; have satisfied exam and experience requirements.

Accredited Racing Official Have passed all of the required tests and meet the experience requirements for accreditation and all continuing education requirements current; however, have worked fewer than 50 racing days as a Steward/Judge of a specific breed during the past three years.

Accredited Steward/Judge Have worked at least 50 racing days as a Steward/Judge of a specific breed during the past three years and all continuing education requirements are current.

Senior Accredited Steward/Judge Have at least five years' experience and 200 racing days as an Accredited Steward/Judge of a specific breed and all continuing education requirements are current.

Please list your last 16 hours of Continuing Education: _____

I give permission to make the information contained in this form public on the ROAP website.

STATEMENT OF TRUTHFULNESS

I certify that all of the information contained in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please fax this form to (859) 224-2710 attn ROAP
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Via email to contactus@horseracingofficials.com