



# Racing Officials Accreditation Program

## *Newsletter*

February 2008

Volume 2, Issue 1

### *Message from Stan Bowker, Chairman*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Coordinator of Racing Officials with the Racing Officials Accreditation Program.

Jennifer Voss-Franco is a graduate of Dowling College in Oakdale, Ny., with a B.B.A. in management and an M.B.A. in business administration. Jennifer comes to ROAP after serving as the program facilitator for the North American Racing Academy for two years. Jennifer has also worked as the registrar for the American Holsteiner Association and she worked for two universities prior to moving to the Bluegrass state. She enjoys riding her horses and is a 4-H Horse Club leader in Lexington. Jennifer's first day is February 12 and I know we all look forward to working with her. Jennifer is very enthusiastic about her new position and we are confident she will be a huge asset to ROAP. Jennifer will be based out of The Jockey Club offices and will work closely with board members Dan Fick and Kristin Hix and all of the accredited officials (and prospective officials!) for whom ROAP exists.

I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

*Stan*

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### *Calendar of Events*

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Feb. 11    | Stewards Round Table<br>Wilmington, DE<br>*8-hour formal CE  |
| Mar. 12-13 | U of L CE Seminar<br>Tampa, FL<br>*16-hour formal CE         |
| May 12     | NYRA CE<br>Belmont Park, NY<br>*8-hour formal CE             |
| June 23-24 | Arizona Formal CE<br>Grand Prairie, TX<br>*16-hour formal CE |
- ~ More information on these events is available on our website. ~

## *New York Alters Whip-Violation Rule*

*By: Karen M. Johnson*

*The Blood-Horse*

<http://www.bloodhorse.com/articleindex/article.asp?id=43204>

A rule that would permit stewards to disqualify a horse should his rider carelessly strike another horse or rider with his whip was recently adopted by the New York State Racing and Wagering Board.

The NYSRWB approved the final adoption of the proposed rule change to the “whip foul rule” Dec. 27, 2007. It became official when it was entered in the state register Jan. 16.

The prior rule only gave the stewards discretion to disqualify a horse whose rider struck another horse or rider with his whip if it was a “willful act.” The new rule allows for disqualifications to take place for both willful and careless incidents involving a whip.

The adoption of the new rule was spurred by the reversal of a disqualification in a graded stakes at Aqueduct in November 2006. In an unusual move, the NYSRWB subsequently overturned the stewards’ decision to disqualify Rahys’ Appeal, who was ridden by Alan Garcia, from first in the Top Flight Handicap (gr. II) to second. The stewards deemed Garcia was not acting willfully when his whip accidentally hit the runner-up, Malibu Mint, in the stretch, but that the rider’s inadvertent action did affect the outcome of the race.

In April 2007, the board unanimously reversed the decision because there was no legal position for disqualifying Rahys’ Appeal, who was owned by Marlene Brody’s Gallagher Stud and trained by Tom Bush. As a result, Rahys’ Appeal was restored the winner of the \$150,000 Top Flight.

## *Uniformity Please!*

*By: Seth Kochera, ROAP Staff*

The new whip rule recently passed in New York prompted ROAP staff to do some research on whip rules across the country. What we found is that major racing states are not uniform on the whip rule. Illinois and New York are the only two major jurisdictions to adopt the rule that a jockey should be disqualified if he or she strikes another horse intentionally or carelessly. As you can see from the preceding article, New York has just recently adopted this rule.

Many states use the RCI Model Rule, which states in relevant part:

### *ARCI-010-035 Running of the Race §(E)(6)*

Use of Whips

Prohibited use of the whip includes whipping a horse:

- (A) on the head, flanks or on any other part of its body other than the shoulders or hind quarters except when necessary to control a horse;
- (B) during the post parade or after the finish of the race except when necessary to control the horse;
- (C) excessively or brutally causing welts or breaks in the skin;
- (D) when the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing;
- (E) persistently even though the horse is showing no response under the whip; or
- (F) striking another rider or horse

Rules in other states vary in several ways. One commission rule states that the horse “may be disqualified” for striking or touching another horse. Two commissions state that foul riding is only determined by the stewards. And several commissions’ rules state something to this effect: “A jockey may not willfully strike or attempt to strike another horse” (Texas Racing Commission Rule RULE §313.443). This is the rule that New York had before it changed in 2008.

## *Jeers as O'Regan Rides Early Finish*

*By: Greg Wood*

*From The Guardian*

<http://sport.guardian.co.uk/horseracing/story/0,,2240815,00.html>

Denis O'Regan became the latest jockey to stand accused of gross incompetence by the nation's punters yesterday when he rode a finish a circuit too soon in a novice chase at Fakenham, less than a week after four riders were banned for failing to stop after a false start at Southwell.

O'Regan, riding at the tight Norfolk track for the first time, partnered Harringay for Henrietta Knight in the Wetherbys Bloodstock Insurance Beginners' Chase and was happy to sit off the pace in the early stages of the three-mile contest as Cathedral Rock cut out the running.

With over a mile still to run, though, O'Regan made rapid progress towards the front, swept into the lead on what he believed to be the home turn, and then tracked left towards the winning post after jumping the first fence in the straight. As he did so, he took a quick peep over his shoulder, to see the rest of the field moving right to jump the fence in front of the stands. Harringay was pulled up shortly afterwards.

There were jeers from the grandstand as O'Regan's mount, a 5-2 chance, passed the winning post. A stewards' inquiry was inevitable, and O'Regan was duly banned for two weeks.

"He's absolutely devastated," Knight said afterwards, "but it's just one of those things and they have been telling me this has apparently happened here before.

"He did know there were three circuits as we were talking about it in the paddock before, but it's just simple human error

and there's no point getting angry about it. He's paid the price anyway.

"The one thing I would say is that they really should doll off the finishing line until the final circuit, like they do at some other tracks, and then it would never happen again."

O'Regan's moment of madness follows last week's farcical scenes at Southwell, when a five-runner race was reduced to a walkover by four jockeys who failed to stop after a false start was signalled. It was confirmed yesterday that all four - Kirsty Milczarek, Pat Cosgrave, Paul Mulrennan and Andrew Elliott - have decided not to appeal against seven-day bans, and will be suspended from January 21 to 28.

### *Horse DQ'd from five races*

*By: David Grening*

*Daily Racing Form*

<http://horseracing.sportsline.com/cbs/headlines/showarticle.aspx?articleId=24695>

The horse Bonus Size was disqualified from five races in November and December at Aqueduct after it was learned that he was ineligible for races in which he was running.

The owners, Paraneck Stable, had to return \$24,745 in purse money earned in those races by Bonus Size, who won a claiming race on at Aqueduct on Dec. 14. That race was for nonwinners of two races lifetime, but Bonus Size was actually eligible for nonwinners of three.

The disqualifications stem from a clerical error that occurred. On May 2, 2007, Bonus Size finished second to Joaquin Memphis in a New York-bred first-level allowance race at Belmont Park. Joaquin Memphis, trained by Rick Violette, was disqualified for a banned substance, and Bonus Size was elevated from second to first.

That disqualification became official on Sept. 10, after the results of a split sample on Joaquin Memphis confirmed the presence of Flunixin, an anti-inflammatory, in the gelding's system. For some reason, the disqualification was never recorded in the past performances of either Joaquin Memphis or Bonus Size.

The problem came to light only when Joaquin Memphis was entered for a New York-bred first-level allowance race at Aqueduct for Saturday but was put in a second-level allowance race on the same card. Violette notified the racing office that Joaquin Memphis was eligible for a first-level allowance race. Joaquin Memphis was scratched by Violette.

*Fatal fall inquiry leaves suspended Jones no margin for error*

*By: John Schell*

*The Sydney Morning Herald*

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/horseracing/fatal-fall-inquiry-leaves-suspended-jones-no-margin-for-error/2008/01/16/1200419885485.html>

RACING NSW stewards yesterday put Joshua Jones on notice and suspended the embattled apprentice for three months after concluding the inquiry into the race fall at Grafton on December 2 that led to the death of jockey Daniel Baker.

Jones was found guilty of careless riding for allowing his mount, Concitare, to shift at the 200-metre mark when it was not clear of the Baker-ridden Hotshot Hayil. Jones was using the whip at the time.

Hotshot Hayil was badly crowded onto another runner, became unbalanced and fell. Three other runners were severely checked.

The suspension will not take effect until Jones has served a separate penalty

incurred at Wyong on December 22. He cannot ride again until May 1.

Stewards advised Jones that he was not entitled to any special consideration because of his poor riding record, and that the carelessness and consequences of the interference were at the higher end of the scale.

Chief steward Ray Murrhiy told Jones his licence (*sic*) to ride in the metropolitan area would be revoked if he incurred another careless-riding penalty within three months of his return to racing.

Murrhiy also handed down the findings of the Racing NSW Riding Skills Panel, to which Jones had been referred for remedial training following several recent riding incidents.

Stewards accepted the recommendation of panel members and former jockeys Ron Quinton and Maurice Logue that Jones attend a series of tuition sessions under the supervision of Quinton or his nominee. Jones's riding would then be reviewed every three months.

*Suwannee River Protest Expected*

*By: Mike Welsch*

*Daily Racing Form*

<http://horseracing.sportsline.com/cbs/headlines/showarticle.aspx?articleId=25165>

Green Girl overcame an eventful post parade and troubled trip to seemingly end her racing career on a winning note with a half-length victory over La Dolce Vita in Sunday's \$100,000 Suwannee River Handicap at Gulfstream Park. But any celebrating may have to wait as Mark Hennig, the trainer of La Dolce Vita, indicated to track officials immediately after the race that he planned to file a protest against the winner for allegedly failing to carry her assigned weight of 118

pounds for an extended period prior to the start of the Grade 3 event.

Hennig and his owner, Gary Zwerling, have 24 hours to file a written protest with track officials.

The controversy began after Green Girl unseated jockey Rene Douglas upon entering the race track and ran off nearly a quarter-mile before being caught by the outriders at the head of the stretch. Douglas attempted to remount Green Girl but immediately jumped off the fractious mare and Green Girl spent the remainder of the post parade riderless.

Several other jockeys dismounted their horses to protest the fact Green Girl was not carrying her weight in the post parade, including Eibar Coa who was aboard the 2-1 favorite J'ray.

Green Girl was shuffled back along the inside during the early running of the 1 1/8-mile Suwannee River, and steadied a couple of times looking for clearance leaving the backstretch and then again approaching the quarter pole. She angled out four wide and finished full of run to register the first graded stakes win of her career.

La Dolce Vita lagged near the rear of the pack for six furlongs, came out into the stretch and finished swiftly to best J'ray by a nose for second. J'ray raced in perfect striking position behind the early leaders, gained command between calls near midstretch, but could not last.

Hennig said the Suwannee River was likely to be the last start of La Dolce Vita's racing career as she too is scheduled to be bred this season.

Green Girl, a 6-year-old daughter of Lord of Men owned by the Ronchalon Stable and trained by Christophe Clement, covered the distance in 1:46.46 seconds and paid \$12.60. She is expected to be bred to Kingmambo later this spring.

"She was difficult to handle and Rene did a great job, rode a great race and we got lucky," said Clement. "And winning a graded stakes will increase her value as a broodmare."

Clement said he had no comment when learning several hours later that a protest might be filed regarding the final outcome of the race.

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### *"Duties and Responsibilities of Racing Officials"*

*By: Seth Kochera, ROAP Staff*

ROAP recently finished their video entitled "Duties and Responsibilities of Racing Officials." The video details the duties of racing officials from stewards to outriders. Lots of great racing officials are featured in the video including Steward John Veitch, retired Starter Bob Duncan, and Track Announcer Luke Krytbosch.

The DVD is approximately 45 minutes long and is a great educational piece on the functions racing officials carry out. It has a narrative on each racing official position and then a brief interview with a racing official in which that person talks about the duties that they perform.

The DVD will be ideal for educating racing officials, racetrack employees, and racing fans. The DVD brings to light jobs that sometimes get overlooked, but still are extremely important.

DVDs are \$15. If interested, please contact the ROAP office and we will be happy to send you a copy.

### *ROAP Video Survey Update*

*By: Seth Kochera, ROAP Staff*

ROAP recently completed a video survey to judge consistency in stewards across the country. The survey participants represented tracks in both

the United States and Canada from many different jurisdictions ranging all the way from Washington to New Jersey.

The survey consisted of 10 race videos, and the participants were asked a series of questions about the incidents that happened in the race. It was meant to see how stewards decide disqualifications, inquiries, and non-starters, and when to let the final results stand.

All the results were compiled in a spreadsheet by ROAP staff. After the deadline all the answers were added up to a final tally. The results sometimes varied a great deal depending on the rules of the jurisdiction or just by the professional opinions of the respected officials or groups of officials, but for the most part the results were pretty consistent.

Officials were encouraged to complete the survey as a board if possible, but many participated individually. In all there were more than 20 different results submitted and more than 40 officials took part in taking the survey.

With the results of the survey, we hope to re-evaluate the way race video analysis is taught at the accreditation schools and to formulate continuing education sessions to encourage consistency among racing officials across the country in dealing with non-starters, disqualifications and other incidents that may occur during the running of a race. The survey is being used to identify where inconsistencies are and how to address them through the accreditation schools and continuing education seminars so there will be more uniformity among racing officials.

A new ROAP video survey will be available each quarter. Right now ROAP is

trying to collect videos to use in the next video survey. The videos, instructions and answer sheets will be available on the ROAP website. Our Staff will be working on making the races easier to view online, so that there will be no trouble viewing the races like some people experienced on the most recent survey.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. Your input was very valuable to us.

**Please remember  
to send us videos!!**

We recommend assigning one person in the stand to record races where there is a DQ, inquiry or other incident. Then at the end of the meet, all the videos can be gathered and sent to ROAP. Please do not send videos of races that are under appeal.

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*Other ROAP News*

*Employment*

Lots of new jobs have been posted on the ROAP website. Be sure to check out [www.horseracingofficials.com](http://www.horseracingofficials.com) Click on "Employment" and then "View all job listings."

*ROAP Lapel Pins*

Don't have your ROAP lapel pin in recognition of your accredited status?

Contact ROAP to receive one today!

Wear your pin while working at the track and make sure the track indicates that you are accredited with an asterisk on the officials' page in the race-day program.



**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)**

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Track(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_ # Racing Days (if Known) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please check whether you have attended the Steward’s Accreditation School at**

Arizona Race Track Industry Program \_\_\_\_\_ USTA Extended Judges School \_\_\_\_\_

Louisville Equine Industry Program \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Fair Steward/Judge or Fair Racing Official (circle one)** Has passed all of the required tests and all continuing education requirements are current; However, due to short length of fair meets, can not meet the experience requirements for accreditation. Has worked an average of 10 days per year for three years at fair race meets.

**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 do not 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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