



Racing Officials Accreditation Program

Newsletter

July 2007

Volume 2

Message from Stan Bowker, Chairman

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Please be sure to visit the website, www.horseracingofficials.com – there is a lot of great information on ROAP and about racing in general. There are also new job listings, interesting articles, and upcoming CE events. We will be posting a new video survey in the coming month – please be sure to complete the survey and send it back to us for 2 hours of Informal CE credit!

We had great participation at our last board meeting, which took place in April at the ARCI convention. The board approved an internship program and a change in the way CE is recorded. Also discussed was the possibility of a Racing Officials Conference in 2008.

Our new ROAP internship program is designed for Steward, Judge, and Racing Official candidates who have attended a 60-hour school and passed all exams, but do not have sufficient experience to be accredited. Please see the internship program information on the website under “Links” for more information and an application.

Starting in 2008, we will be phasing out the “block” CE requirement in favor of a CE requirement of 16 hours every two years.

This should make the CE process easier for everyone, from officials to ROAP staff!

Once again, please look on the ROAP directory and make sure your information is correct and current. If your name is not on the directory or your information is incorrect or out of date, please fill out a ROAP Personal Information form and return it to ROAP at the address, email or fax number provided.

We would love to hear from you – please send articles, letters, commentary and photographs for inclusion in the next newsletter. If you have an email address, please let us know so we can send you the newsletter electronically every quarter.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and you’ll hear more from ROAP in the fall.

Regards,
Stan

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www.horseracingofficials.com

ROAP Directory Update

We have recently completed an update of our Racing Officials directory. Students whose accreditation expired in 1997 or earlier were removed from the public database. Expiration dates for everyone were updated and are now correct based on the information in the database.

Students who are in good standing will appear in the directory in blue. By clicking on a name, you can view accreditation type and status along with the CE expiration date.

Students whose CE is expired and whose accreditation is no longer in good standing will appear in the directory in red. In order to get back into good standing, the student must complete the 16 hours of CE they missed and an additional 16 hours.

Students who do not possess the required amount of experience in the racing industry in order to become accredited appear in green on the website. The experience requirements are on the website, www.horseracingofficials.com, under "Requirements" and then "Experience Criteria." Students who feel that they have met the listed requirements will need to contact the Racing Officials program where they attended their initial Stewards School, either the University of Arizona, the University of Louisville, or the United States Trotting Association and obtain a letter of accreditation. In order for us to change the accreditation status we will need the letter of accreditation and an updated ROAP Personal Information sheet (included with this newsletter).

If you have any questions, please contact ROAP.

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 8-9 Washington State CE
Seattle, WA
*16-hour formal CE
- Nov. 7-14 U of L Stewards School
Louisville, KY
*Approved 60-hour school
- Nov. 12-13 U of L 16-hour CE
Louisville, KY
*16-hour formal CE
- ~ More information on these events is available on our website. ~



Employment

Lots of new jobs have been posted on the ROAP website. Be sure to check out www.horseracingofficials.com and 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.

Drifting in the Stretch
By Dan Silver, ROAP

One of the most difficult incidents for a steward to judge is when a horse is drifting out in the stretch, according to Dr. Ted Hill, The Jockey Club Steward for NYRA. "It can be very hard to determine when a horse drifting and floating out, with or without contact, warrants a disqualification," he said. "Experienced jockeys will say that it is not easy to pass a horse that is drifting out. Many of those same riders will also say that drifting out can be an effective strategy to prevent a horse from passing them, while still looking like you didn't foul him."

Different jurisdictions will often have different opinions on when and what type of drifting should result in a disqualification. I visited with Jon Veitch, Kentucky Chief State Steward, and Darrel McHargue, California State Steward, and received their insight on the subject.

Veitch, a former trainer, said, "If a horse is clear of trailing horses he can take any path that he wants to. The horses coming from behind are responsible for taking a path around the lead horse. It is only when a horse is passing another horse and impeding takes place that you could have a foul."

He added, "When horses are side-by-side the situation becomes a bit trickier. If the inside horse drifts and, without making any contact, forces the outside horse to alter its path, it becomes a judgment call for the stewards. They must interview the riders involved and consider the amount of ground that was lost by the outside horse. In most jurisdictions, anything that happens that influences the outcome of a race is grounds for disqualification."

McHargue, a former jockey, says that riders can make tough decisions easier for

the stewards by doing one simple thing. "I tell all of our jockeys that if a horse is taking them off their path, they need to try and hold their line. If they can hold their line, and that horse continues to drift, it will shorten the space between the horses or make contact and it will make the interference obvious on the films."



The only situation when jockeys should not hold their line, according to McHargue, is when they are in danger of clipping heels with the horse that is drifting toward them. "If the inside horse is drifting out and a horse on the outside is in heel clipping stages, the rider has no option but to shift out with that horse," he said.

In some instances, according to McHargue, looks can be deceiving. "Sometimes it may look like the inside horse is drifting out and altering the path of the outside horse, when in reality the outside horse is drifting out and the inside horse is simply following."

So while there are no clear-cut answers on when drifting in the stretch should result in a disqualification, if a jockey can hold their line it will make the decision much easier for the stewards. If the horses never make contact, in many jurisdictions it becomes a judgment call on whether or not the drifting influenced the outcome of the race.

Judges working toward accreditation

By John Pawlak

Reprinted from the USTA

(www.ustrotting.com)

Columbus, OH — The judges stands at North America's harness racetracks will soon be populated by 19 new graduates of the Judges and Stewards Accreditation Program who attended an extended officials' school conducted by the U.S. Trotting Association at the Association's headquarters in Columbus.

The program provides working and prospective judges with extensive training, and confers accreditation which is recognized by all the harness racing jurisdictions in North America. The Accreditation Program operates officials' schools at the University of Louisville and the University of Arizona, and the USTA school was conducted under the auspices of that program.

The intensive course of study began on Monday, June 4, and was capped by a full day of testing on Tuesday.

This "extended school" was the first offered by the USTA since 1994; since that time, the USTA has been part of the Accreditation Program, and has helped with instruction at both universities.

U.S. Trotting Association Liaison Officer Chip Hastings and USTA Director of Officials T.C. Lane conducted the school, which also featured expert speakers from around the nation. All aspects of judging, including ethics, video analysis, paddock and backstretch activities, the rules of racing, judging techniques, and the various responsibilities of officials were included in the comprehensive course of study.

Among the many instructors were Dr. Richard Sams of the University of Florida Racing Laboratory, Pete Lang of Standardbred Investigative Services, Northfield Park CEO Tom Aldrich, Alan Foreman of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's

Association, equine surgeon Dr. Barry Carter, and Dr. Scot Waterman, who is the executive director of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium.

Among those who hope to use the school as a springboard from the backstretch to the judges stand is Bob Coberley of Lambertville, Mich., who has been — using a word of his choosing — "passionate" about the sport for 25 years.

"(Being a judge) is something I've always wanted to do," Coberley said. "I've got experience as a driver-trainer, so being a judge, I think, is a perfect fit for me. I was expecting a good, thorough program, and we were certainly provided with that."

Coberley has no immediate prospect of being hired as a full-time official, but says he will immediately begin his search for a position, armed with his accreditation.

"What I learned was very valuable. At the least you come away with more understanding about — and a new outlook about — officials," Coberley added.

Not all those in attendance were judging novices; Rich Williams of Middletown, Ind. has been working in the judges' stands at Indiana's pari-mutuel tracks for the past 10 years, and before that was a minor official, holding down spots in the state's race offices and paddocks.

"What I wanted was the accreditation," Williams said. "More and more states are requiring it. I think that I got a real chance to brush-up on the basics. I'm glad the USTA is offering these schools again; I've attended the school at the University of Louisville, but they had too much of an emphasis on Thoroughbred racing."

The USTA will offer its expertise at upcoming University of Louisville and University of Arizona extended officials schools, and will offer its next course in Columbus in 2009.

Photos from the ROAP “Duties and Responsibilities of Racing Officials” Video Shoot

Courtesy of Shannon Luce,
The Jockey Club



Taping Outriders in the Morning



Interview with Track Superintendent



Interview with Regulatory Veterinarian

All Photos from Churchill Downs



Horse Identifier in the Paddock



Visiting with the Racing Secretary



Visiting with the State Steward



**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 Steward’s Accreditation School at
Univ. of Arizona Race Track Industry Program _____ Univ. of Louisville Equine Industry Program _____
United States Trotting Association Extended School _____

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,
mail to Racing Officials Accreditation Program, 821 Corporate Drive, Lexington, KY 40503,
or email to contactus@horseracingofficials.com