

ROAP Certificate Program

Racing official positions available

CLERK OF SCALES

The job title “clerk of scales” is nothing if not an understatement. The person who fills the position of clerk of scales at the racetrack does far more than simply manage the weighing out and in of riders.

In fact, the clerk of scales supervises pretty much everything that has to do with the jockeys’ room: the jockeys themselves, their riding assignments, saddling assignments, the valets, the laundry, and the colors man. He is in complete charge of the jockeys’ room and its occupants; he is responsible for the accuracy of weights and riding assignments; he is responsible for reporting any over- or under-weights; and he maintains the weight records for every racing day.

The day starts for the clerk of scales and continues until the last race is run and the last jockey is weighed in.

HORSE IDENTIFIER

The horse identifier has one main responsibility: making sure that the right horse is running.

While the goal itself is simple, the process for successfully meeting that goal is multi-faceted, designed to offer a number of safeguards to maintain the integrity of the race.

PADDOCK JUDGE

As with all racetrack official positions, the main concerns of the paddock judge are the safety of the horses and humans involved and the integrity of the race for the wagering public.

Among the paddock judge’s responsibilities are making sure that all the horses are wearing only designated and permitted equipment; making sure that all jockeys mount at the same

time, so that all horses are carrying weight for an equal amount of time; and making sure that the horses and riders get to the track on time for the post parade.

The position of paddock judge is “part traffic manager, part keeper of the schoolyard.”

PLACING JUDGE

The road to a race being declared official begins with the placing judges. They are responsible for making sure that the order of finish is correct, and literally millions of dollars rest on their accuracy.

The correct order of finish determines how much owners, trainers, and jockeys get paid; how much the payout is for each wager; which wagers are correct; and which bettors collect a payout.

In addition to determining the correct order of finish, the placing judges play several other roles during the running of the race. While each placing judge might play the same role regularly, each should be able to assume the responsibilities of the other when necessary.

OUTRIDER

The outrider is the traffic cop on the track. He performs essential safety functions both in the morning and in the afternoon; his work helps to ensure the safety of horses and riders whenever a horse is on the racetrack.

The number of outriders on the track at any one time will vary from track to track. Outriders are expected to carry radios so that they can communicate with veterinarians, ambulances, and other personnel such as clockers in the event of an emergency.

In ideal circumstances, outriders should be able to convey the rules of the track to people trying to be licensed, people new to area, and non-native English speakers. New arrivals to a track may not know what to do in case of emergency, where to go, or whom to contact, and the outrider can be the conduit for this information to new riders. Given the wide disparity in rules and regulations from track to track, it's crucial that those licensed on the track know what is expected.

STARTER/ASSISTANT STARTER

The primary responsibility of the starter and his assistants is to ensure a safe and fair break. Their goal is to get the field of horses loaded efficiently and calmly into the gate, giving every horse a fair chance in the race. The paramount concerns are safety and integrity. The gate crew wants to work towards the safety of the horses, the jockeys, and themselves, while making sure that bettors are not deprived of a fair chance to win because of a gate incident.

A good start requires teamwork and cooperation among the members of the gate crew. Their duties and responsibilities begin in the morning with gate school and finish at the end of the race day.