

2022 ADOPTED RULE & BYLAW CHANGES

*The following proposed rule and bylaw changes were adopted by the USTA Board of Directors at the 2022 Annual Meeting. These rules go into effect on May 1, 2022. Newly adopted rules are **bold underlined**; deletions are *struck out*.*

1. § 5.16 **Medical Assistance.** - At all member tracks where harness races are conducted it shall be the responsibility of the track member to have a licensed paramedic, emergency medical technician or the equivalent and an ambulance or other suitable transportation available on the premises during the period beginning 30 minutes prior to the post time for the first race on the program, or first qualifying race, through the conclusion of the racing program. For the purposes of this rule “ambulance” or “other suitable transportation” shall be defined as one capable of transporting injured parties to an appropriate medical facility. **In the case of an injury, the medical team on site shall have the discretion to transport immediately and have a backup ambulance called to replace them or call for backup to transport depending on the severity of the injury.**
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2. § 6.15 **Clerk of the Course/Charter.** –

(b) The charting of races shall be done only by a licensed clerk of the course/charter and he or she shall be responsible for providing a complete and accurate chart. At all meetings, the charting of races is mandatory and the track member shall employ a licensed clerk of the course/charter to fulfill the requirements of this section. **All fairs must furnish race charts to the USTA by midnight of the race day.**

3. § 11.03 **Opening of Claim Box.** –

(d)(2) The claim box shall be opened and the claim, if any, examined by the judges. **This process shall made available for public inspection by video feed or other means of electronic recordation.**

- ~~4. § 11.03 (d)(11) **Blood Sample Procedure if Horse is Claimed.** In the event a horse is claimed a blood sample shall be taken by a licensed veterinarian and the sample identified as being from a claimed horse shall be forwarded within 24 hours to an approved laboratory to be tested for equine infectious anemia. Pending the receipt of a negative test for equine infectious anemia the monies paid for the claimed horse shall be held by the track member. In the event of a positive test for equine infectious anemia the ownership of the claimed horse shall revert to the owner from whom the horse was claimed and the claiming monies shall be returned to the person or persons who claimed the horse. The cost of the test is to be borne by the claimant and the test may be waived by the claimant at his discretion by so indicating on the claiming slip.~~

5. **§ 11.11 Voidable Claim. If a horse, after starting in a race and being claimed, cannot walk off the track under its own power, the claimant or his/her trainer shall have one hour from off time of the race to void the claim with permission from the veterinarian and stewards.**

6. **§ 12.07 Date of Nomination Closing/Sustaining Payments Due. -**

(c) There shall be no conditions that call for payments in stakes or futurities to fall due after August 15th and before February 15th of the following year, **with the exception of supplemental payments. No stake or futurity shall become due prior to February 15th of any year.**

(d) In early closing events no payment on two-year-olds shall become due prior to ~~March~~ **February** 15th excluding fairs and sire stakes.

(e) No more than ~~two~~ **three** sustaining payments on any horse of any age in any calendar year, with the exception of the starting fee, will be approved.

7. **§ 26.07 Names. -**

(c) Names of outstanding horses, **including winners of the Hambletonian, the Kentucky Futurity and the Little Brown Jug and their respective filly divisions,** may not be used again nor may they be used as a prefix or suffix unless the name is a part of the name of the sire or dam.

ADOPTED BYLAW

§ 3.01 Annual District Meeting. There shall be held within each district and sub-district 4A and sub-district 4B an annual meeting of the membership between the first day of October and the first day of February following.

(d) Order of Business. At the annual district meetings of the association, the chairman, or in the event of his/her absence or inability to serve, another director of the district shall preside, and the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Filing the proof of notice of meeting.
2. Reports of officers.
3. Reports of committees, if any.
4. Report of election committee.
5. ~~Election of directors.~~
6. Miscellaneous business.

§ 4.01 District Membership Directors. Membership elected directors shall be elected by the membership of each district at the annual meeting held in each of the districts for the expiring term on the **second Tuesday of December.**

§ 4.02 Election of Membership Directors. Membership directors shall be elected as follows:

(a) **Nomination Petition Requirements.** Candidates for membership director other than incumbent membership director shall be made by filing a written petition signed by at least twenty-five (25) voting members from the district for which the person seeks to become a candidate to be filed at the main office of the association in Columbus, Ohio ~~at least fifty (50) days before the election. In computing the fifty (50) day period, the day of filing shall be counted and the day of the district meeting excluded by~~ **October 1st.**

Nominating petitions forwarded by mail shall be by registered mail return receipt requested and shall be considered filed as of the postmark date. All others shall be considered filed at the time they are actually received at the main office of the association.

(b) **Restriction Against Running in more than One District.** An individual can only run in one district at one time.

(c) **Incumbent Director.** The incumbent membership director shall automatically become a candidate unless ~~at least fifty (50) days prior to said election he~~ **or she** files a written declination at the office of the association by the last day of **September.**

(d) **Active Membership Requirement.** Any candidate for membership director must be an individual member of this association, and upon election, must maintain that membership throughout the term of office.

(e) **Official Ballot.** The association will then prepare an official ballot listing thereon all candidates for the position of membership director for any vacancy where there is a contest. Votes to be valid must be cast using the official ballot prepared by the association and returned in the official return envelope provided by the association. In the event there is not a contested election for the position of the membership director, the sole nominee shall be automatically elected.

(f) **Publication of Deadline for Receipt of Ballot.** The dates of the mail ballot deadline and the certified public accounting firm to which the ballots must be sent shall be announced and communicated to the members electronically or by another method approved by the executive vice president. The **ballots shall be postmarked by the second Tuesday** ~~deadline for receipt of ballots shall be four (4) days prior to the first Monday~~ of December, unless otherwise established by the board of directors.

(g) **Voting Procedures by Member.** In order to vote, each member will complete the mail ballot by marking thereon his/her choice for director. The member will then place the ballot in the unmarked envelope furnished for that purpose, seal the envelope, place that envelope in the return address envelope furnished for that purpose, seal the return address envelope, and must affix their signature in the upper left-hand corner of the front of the return address envelope. The member will then mail the ballot to the office of an appointed and announced certified public accounting firm as designated by the board of directors. Ballots **postmarked by** ~~received on the~~ **date of election** ~~fourth day prior to the district meeting and no later,~~ shall be considered as received by the deadline.

1. **Voting in Person.** ~~Where a member receives a ballot by mail and chooses not to vote by mail in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws said member may take said ballot to the annual district meeting and cast said ballot in person in accordance with the provisions of article 4.03(b) of the bylaws.~~

2. **Electronic Voting.** The association may also approve and offer a suitable means of voting electronically in an election of director, for those who wish to vote electronically.

(h) **Tabulation of Ballots.** The association shall appoint and announce a certified public accounting firm in Columbus, Ohio where the ballots will be held until after the four-day deadline, then opened and counted by the certified public accounting firm which will then certify the tabulated results in a sealed envelope to the **USTA Secretary** ~~district chairman~~ along with all those ballots that are questioned by the accounting firm and not counted in the tabulation furnished by said accounting firm. In the event a return address envelope is received by the certified public accounting

firm with the name typed or printed, it shall be immediately returned to the voter together with a letter of instruction on the procedure to vote by mail ballot.

§ 4.03 Membership Director Election Committee. If there is a contest for membership director, the chairman of the district board shall appoint an election committee of three from the qualified membership in good standing to determine the validity of all ballots that are questioned by the certified public accounting firm referred to in article 4.02(h) of these bylaws and not counted in the tabulation furnished by said accounting firm and to determine the qualifications of any members entitled to vote in person.

(a) **Presiding over Election Committee.** The chairman of the district board shall preside at and have charge of the election committee, unless that person is a candidate in which event that person shall appoint another director from such district, who shall preside and appoint the election committee.

~~(b) **Place of Registration.** The election committee shall open and maintain a place of registration at the designated place of meeting and shall receive personal votes from those entitled to vote in person for one hour prior to the date of the election. Voting in person shall be limited to those members who bring those ballots which they received by mail to the polling place and deliver them to the election committee. All members voting in person in this manner shall register with the election committee at the time they deposit their ballots.~~

~~(b)-(c) **Candidates May Be Represented.** Each candidate may personally, or by representative appointed by the candidate monitor the activities of the election committee.~~