

2023 PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

*The following proposed rule and bylaw changes will be considered by the membership at each district's annual meeting and will be voted on by the USTA Board of Directors at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Additions are **bold underlined**; deletions are ~~struck out~~.*

- 1. A proposal to amend existing Rule 5.18 Standardized Saddle Pad Colors to require all USTA member tracks, including fairs, to use the same standardized saddle pad colors for both warmup and racing effective May 1, 2024:**

5.18 Standardized Saddle Pad Colors. The saddle pads in use at member tracks conducting extended pari-mutuel meetings **and fairs (effective May 1, 2024)** shall be standardized consistent with a format to be established by the USTA **and shall be the same color for warmup and racing.**

Sponsor: Bill Peters, Edgerton, OH

[The sponsor states: “Several tracks have used a different color saddle pad for each horse in a race in the past few years. To state it frankly, it is ‘ugly.’ It projects a poor image of our sport. I liken it to putting five basketball players on the court with each wearing a jersey of a different style. It makes us look like we don’t care how we look. To me, it is very ‘bush league’ stuff. Note: This is my 63rd year of active involvement in harness racing and my 61st year as a member of the USTA. This is the first time that I have ever proposed a rule change, because I guess that I have never felt so strongly about a rule before.”]

- 2. A proposal to amend Rule 5 by adding section 5.20 Racetrack Infield to require infield ponds be enclosed by a fence and recommend the pond to be supported with a stone or concrete bottom:**

5.20 Racetrack Infield. – All track infield ponds shall be enclosed with a fence barrier and should be supported with a stone or concrete bottom.

Sponsor: Carl Howard, Powell, OH

[The sponsor states: “Over the last two years I have watched one horse drown (July 11, 2022) and another almost drown. Requiring a fence barrier is a safety measure for horses and potentially horsemen, a stone or concrete bottom is an added safety measure so that if a horse does break through the fence barrier, there will be a better footing. The horror of watching a horse drown and the bad light it sheds on our industry is something that can be avoided.”]

- 3. A proposal to amend existing Rule 6.03 Officials at Extended Meetings so that when a racing official owns and/or trains a horse and hires a catch driver, he/she may not act as an official at a track where the catch driver participates:**

6.03 Officials at Extended Meetings. — No person may act as a racing official at an extended pari-mutuel meeting without a license valid for extended pari-mutuel meetings.

No licensed official shall be qualified to act as such at any pari-mutuel meeting where he is the owner or otherwise interested in the ownership of any horse participating at such meeting. **If a racing official owns and/or trains a horse and employs a catch driver, he or she may not act as an official at any track where the catch driver participates.**

Sponsor: Robert J. McHugh, Norwood, MA

[The sponsor states: “We recommend that the rule be expanded to state that when a racing official owns or trains a horse and hires a catch driver, a conflict of interest is apparent where that driver also races at a track where that official presides. That official should be prohibited from judging at any track where the catch driver drives. The purpose of this recommendation is so both the public and racing participants can be assured that every race will be judged fairly and a perception that the official may be partial to an individual that drove or trained that individual’s horse.”]

4. A proposal to amend existing Rule 6 Duties of the Judges, Section 11(g) to give better reasoning for a racing official to deem a race a “no contest” and to correct a typographical error listing (g) as (h):

- (g) (h) The following shall be considered grounds for the judges to declare a heat or race a “no contest:”
1. In the event an accident occurs on the track during a heat or race and the field must pass the spot of the accident before the finish;
 2. If one or more driver or horse is down;
 3. If, in the opinion of the judges, the safety of the drivers and horses are in jeopardy due to an incident;
 4. If a horse is traveling clockwise;
 5. Or, in the event the racetrack is thrown into darkness during the progress of a race by failure of electricity.

Current rule:

(g) Declare a heat or race “no contest” in the event the racetrack is thrown into darkness during the progress of a race by failure of electricity or other situation if the judges deem it is in the best interest of racing.

Sponsor: Mark Loewe, District 7 Director

[The sponsor states: “The current rule regarding the justification for a no contest is too vague and does not address the valid reasons in which a race is to be declared a no contest. The proposed language provides a clearer and more comprehensive path of reasoning for the judges to use than what is in existence today and would do more to protect the drivers, horses and betting public.”]

5. A proposal to amend existing Rule 8 Racing, Farm, Corporate or Stable Names:

Rule 8. Racing, Farm, Corporate, Stable, or Stallion Syndicate Names

Section

- 8.01 Registration of ~~Stallion Syndicates and~~ Racing, Farm, Corporate, ~~or~~ Stable, or Stallion Syndicate Names
- 8.02 Individual Membership Requirements for Members
- 8.03 Prohibition Against Duplicate Names
- 8.04 Liability of Owners and Other Persons

- 8.05 Inactivity of Registered Stable
8.06 Signature on Transfers and Other Documents Relating to Racing, Farm, Corporation, ~~and Stable Names,~~
or Stallion Syndicates Names
8.07 Designation of Corresponding Officer

8.01 ~~Registration of Stallion Syndicates and Racing, Farm, Corporate, or Stable, or Stallion Syndicate Names.~~
~~Stallion syndicates and~~ Racing, farm, corporate or stable, or stallion syndicate names, hereby referred to as a registered stable, may be used by owners or lessees if registered with the USTA ~~giving the names of all persons who are involved in the stable or will use the name.~~

8.02 **Individual Membership Requirements for Members.**— All persons who are members of a registered farm, ~~syndicate, corporation, or stable, racing or~~ the corresponding officer of a stallion syndicate, or any person breeding a horse as provided in Rule 4.10 must be USTA members. The USTA shall be notified immediately if additional persons become interested in a registered farm, ~~syndicate, corporation, or stable, or stallion syndicate~~ or if some person listed in a registration disassociates himself or herself from the registered farm, ~~syndicate, corporation, or stable, or stallion syndicate.~~ Failure to do so will place the registered farm, ~~syndicate, corporation or stable, or stallion syndicate~~ in violation of the Rules.

8.03 **Prohibition Against Duplicate Names.** — Two registered racing, farms, ~~corporations~~ corporate, or stables, or stallion syndicates cannot be registered under the same name and the ~~USTA Executive Vice President~~ may reject an application for a name that is confusing to the public, unbecoming to the sport, or exceeds 25 letters including spaces between letters.

8.04 **Liability of Owners and Other Persons.** — All owners and persons listed in a registered racing, farm, corporation, ~~or stable, or stallion syndicate,~~ whether incorporated or not shall be jointly and severally liable for entry fees and penalties against the registered racing, farm, ~~corporation~~ corporate, or stable or stallion syndicate. In the event one of the owners or persons listed in a registered racing, farm, corporation, ~~or stable, or stallion syndicate~~ is suspended, all the horses shall be included in accordance with Rule 22.05.

8.05 **Inactivity of Registered Stable.** — A registered stable must have its membership renewed each year. If the stable is not renewed for a period of 15 years, it will be presumed abandoned and may be reissued to another party upon proper application. Stallion syndicate names may never be reissued.

8.06 **Signature on Transfers and Other Documents Relating to Racing, Farm, Corporation, ~~and Stable, or Stallion Syndicate~~ Names.** — Only the signature of the corresponding officer of a racing, farm, corporation, ~~or stable, or stallion syndicate~~ name will be recognized on transfers and other documents pertaining to such organizations. Documents bearing the signature of the stable by the corresponding officer will be considered binding upon the members thereof.

8.07 **Designation of Corresponding Officer.** — Each member of a registered farm, corporation, ~~or stable, or stallion syndicate~~ should sign a document designating the name and address of the corresponding officer thereof. As used in Rule 8, the word “corporate” name shall include the name of a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust, and any other recognized legal entity.

Sponsors: Kevin Greenfield, District 1 Director; David Reid, Briarcliff Manor, NY; Russell Williams, USTA President and District 7 Director; Dr. John Mossbarger, District 1 Director

[The sponsors state: “*Due to the complexity and operational dynamics within the structure of a stallion syndicate, requiring each individual to be a current USTA member is unnecessary and oftentimes unwieldy.*”]

6. A proposal to amend existing Rule 9.02(c) Owner Names on Electronic Eligibility to allow six separate ownership entities to be listed as registered owner on a horse:

(c) Owner Names on Electronic Eligibility. — The names of all owners including beneficial owners shall be listed on the electronic eligibility. The electronic eligibility shall not be issued in the names of more than ~~six four~~ six persons. In the event ~~seven five~~ seven or more names are reported to the USTA, the electronic eligibility shall be issued

only in ~~six~~ four or fewer including registered farm, corporate, syndicate, or stable names, which must be registered in accordance with Rule 8.01.

Sponsor: Andrew Cohen, Edgewood, CO

[The sponsor states: “Rule 9.02(c) and any other related rules about the number of listed owners on a particular horse should be changed so that as many as six separate people/entities can be listed as owners on a horse. Right now the USTA’s limit is four. I am unaware of the reason for the four-owner limit. I am also unaware of any other portions of the USTA’s bylaws that address this topic but ask that they be incorporated by this reference. The proposed new rule recognizes the pervasiveness of partner groups owning horses and eliminates an expensive USTA requirement that horses with more than four owners must use ‘stable name.’ Online the change could easily be accommodated by adding two extra lines to the tab where owners are listed. Program pages could add extra owners, if needed, by eliminating the geographical descriptions now used for all owners. People who are interested in knowing where an owner resides can easily look it up online.”]

7. A proposal to amend existing Rule 9.07 Horses 15 Years of Age or Older by adding criteria for which a horse must meet to be able to be raced as a 15-year-old:

9.07 Horses 15 Years of Age or Older.—No horse that is 15 years of age or older is eligible to perform in any race except matinees, county fair races, races exclusively for amateur or club drivers as sanctioned by USTA, or non-betting racing under saddle events and no electronic eligibility shall be issued for such a horse except for a performance in such races.

- (a) Any horse that was placed on the steward’s or vet’s list for any type of lameness during its 14-year-old season is not eligible to race as a 15-year-old.
- (b) A 15-year-old horse that is placed on the steward’s or vet’s list for any type of lameness during its 15-year-old season is no longer eligible to race.
- (c) 15-year-old horses are limited to a maximum of three starts in a calendar month.
- (d) 15-year-old horses are limited to a maximum purse earnings of \$25,000 during their 15-year-old year after which they are no longer eligible to race.

Sponsor: David Glasser, Randolph, NJ

[The sponsor states: “The current rule did not anticipate the current increase in amateur/club races where 15-year-olds can race. We need additional rules governing the 15-year-olds to ensure that the horses are protected. I, David Glasser, am the signer and submit this with the full support and backing of the following individuals and their associated USTA sanctioned clubs where 15-year-olds are allowed to race. The following clubs have agreed to implement these rules: David Glasser and David Yarock for the GSY Club; Scott Warren, Director of Racing & Racing Secretary for Meadowlands & Vernon Downs; Stacy Chiodo, owner/driver/trainer; Anthony Verruso for the American Harness Drivers Club; Peter Szymanski, Director of Racing for the Ocean Club at Ocean Downs; Stephen Oldford for the Great Lakes Amateur Driving Association; Joe Burke for the Maine Amateur Drivers Club; Bill Abdelnour for the New England Amateur Harness Drivers Club.”]

8. A proposal to amend existing Rule 11.03(d) to add new subsection (11) to prohibit the announcement of a claim being made prior to the conclusion of the race:

(11) Announcement of Claims. — No claim shall be announced until the race has been made official.

Sponsor: Thomas P. Brown, Stow, OH

[The sponsor states: “I understand that tracks announce a claim prior to the race to benefit the bettor, but what about the horse? In many cases the horse that is claimed is driven hard, parked the mile and then whipped in an effort to hurt the horse.”]

9. A proposal to amend existing Rule 13.04 Number of Starters to add section (d) in regard to two-year-old starters in stakes races, and early and late closing races:

13.04 Number of Starters.—

(a) In any race where the number of horses declared in to start exceeds 11 on a half mile track, 12 on a 5/8-mile track, or 14 on a larger track, unless lesser numbers are specified in the conditions of the race, the race at the option of the track member conducting same stated before positions are drawn may be raced in elimination heats.

(b) In the absence of conditions providing for a lesser number of starters no more than two tiers of horses, allowing eight feet per horse will be allowed to start in any race and in no event shall there be allowed more than 11 starters on a half-mile racetrack, 12 starters on a 5/8-mile racetrack or 14 starters on a larger racetrack. At a county fair or other non-extended meetings where no pari-mutuel wagering is permitted there shall not be more than 10 starters on a half-mile racetrack.

(c) In overnight events at extended pari-mutuel meetings and other meetings not more than eight horses shall be allowed to start on a half-mile racetrack and not more than 10 horses on larger tracks. Trailers are not permitted where the racetrack has room to score all horses abreast allowing eight feet per horse, unless otherwise agreed upon by the track member and representative horsemen’s association. Presiding judges at county fairs, in their discretion, and prior to the draw, shall have the authority to limit the number of starters in a race to a number less than 10, if in their judgment starting 10 horses would be unsafe, taking into account the condition of the racetrack, the width of the racetrack and the class of horses participating.

(d) No stake, early or late closing races for two-year olds shall have more horses than can be accommodated on the starting gate.

Sponsor: Clarence Chaffee, Vienna, VA

[The sponsor states: “It is unfair, unsafe and of no benefit to the racing industry to have 2-year-old horses starting from the second tier in a stake, early or late closing race.

Owners pay in large amounts to have their horses eligible for these races and all owners pay the same amount for the race start fee. All horses should therefore have an equal opportunity in the race. Having a second tier eliminates that equality not only for the second-tier horses but also for the horses on the outside who have significantly increased difficulty in securing a decent trip in the race. Harness racing results, especially stake races, should depend on the ability of the horses and not the ‘luck of the draw.’

The risk of accident and injury to horses is also increased significantly when there are trailing horses and even more when there are inexperienced horses in the race. A breaking horse before or at the start can easily interfere with a trailing horse. There is also a significant increased probability that the outside horses will have to race two or three-wide for a long distance. This not only impacts the given race but also future races as racing hard on the outside can negatively impact a 2-year-old for several weeks or even months.

Finally, there is no benefit to the industry to have second tier horses. There is no indication that more horses increased the handle as is shown in an article by Darin Zoccali in the Daily Racing Form of January 21, 2020 - ‘Several years ago, The Meadowlands experimented with longer races at times with up to 14 horses, ranging in distance from 1 1/16 miles to 1 ½ miles. These weren’t stakes races, but standard overnight races throughout the meet. While handle wagered on those races was similar to all other Meadowlands races, there was never a noticeable jump in handle. Despite the added betting interests in larger fields, it just never resulted in much of an impact for the racetrack.’

It is much better for all concerned to split stakes, early and late closer fields into multiple races rather than ruin our 2-year-olds for the sake of one race.”]

10. A proposal to amend existing Rule 13.05 (a) Purse Money Distribution to add money provisions for horses finishing 6th-last place:

13.05 Purse Money Distribution. — Unless otherwise provided in the conditions, all purses shall be distributed on the heat basis with the money awarded according to a horse's position in each separate heat of the race.

(a) Purse placing in overnight events ~~shall be limited to five places~~ **shall apply to all finishers of a race with \$100 being awarded to sixth through last place. The sum of the money awarded to sixth through last place shall be subtracted from the total purse, with the remainder of the purse being distributed as stated in 13.05 (b).**

(b) Unless otherwise specified in the conditions, the purse money distribution shall be: five or more starters: 50-25-12-8-5%; four starters only: 55-25-12-8%; three starters only: 60-28-12%; two starters only: 65-35%.

Sponsor: Kimothy Vincent, Bridgeville, DE

[The sponsor states: *"This is to offset the expense of racing a horse. It will help to keep horses from being scratched due to draw position. Funding will be taken out of the total purse, so the change should be self-funding. As an example, in a race with eight starters and a purse of \$4,000, \$300 will be deducted from the total purse and awarded to the horses finishing sixth through eighth place. The remainder of the purse, \$3,700 in this example, will be divided using the current schedule of 50%-25%-12%-8%-5%. As an added note, this idea is already used in other countries such as Australia and New Zealand."*]

11. A proposal to amend existing Rule 17.04 Qualification and Categories of Driver Licenses to add two amateur racing licenses, "AA" and "PA" as subsections (f) and (g):

(f) **"AP" Amateur Provisional—An amateur license valid for fairs, matinees, qualifying races and extended pari-mutuel meetings subject to satisfactory performance.**

(g) **"AA" Amateur Full license—An amateur license valid for all meetings.**

Sponsor: David Glasser, Randolph, NJ

[The sponsor states: *"Request is that USTA add two new Driver License types: 'AA' and 'PA'. These would be the existing 'A' and 'P' with the new option for a driver to indicate to the USTA (and simultaneously to horsemen's bookkeepers) that they DO NOT want to be compensated for driving a race. This would be the first step for a driver to take if they want to be eligible to drive in races restricted to 'Amateur' drivers. Declaring as a non-compensated (aka 'amateur') makes you eligible to apply for membership in a USTA sanctioned Amateur Driving Club and does NOT guarantee acceptance as a member at any Club. Additionally, status changes either way (from amateur to pro or from pro to amateur) are allowed only once per calendar year and require 30 days processing time.*

'Amateur' races have grown dramatically. With this rule change, we make it possible to ensure that drivers who have declared themselves 'amateurs' do NOT get paid the 5% when they drive horses in Pro (non-Club sponsored) races. This new license designation alerts the horsemen's bookkeepers at all tracks to NOT PAY the 5% to any driver with this designation, ever.

The only possible argument I see against this, is that this would stop a declared amateur from taking the 5% on a horse they own 100% of, if they earned money in a non-club race. I understand this. That said, I do not see a system that could work and accomplish the goal of ensuring that amateurs never are paid the 5%

without this sacrifice. It is more urgent and important that we institute a simple system to stop the 5% being paid today that should not be, rather than be concerned about the extra 5% to the owner who is also an amateur driver and earns 90% of the purse as the owner. And I am one of those owner/drivers!

From the perspective of the wagering public, if USTA charted self-declared amateur drivers as 'License Category-Name' instead of 'Name' only, bettors would know when an amateur is driving in a pro race and when a horse changes drivers from/to an amateur/pro. That is valuable handicapping information.”]

12. A proposal to amend existing Rule 18.02 Requirements for Filing an Objection to add verbiage regarding driver responsibility in filing:

18.02 Requirements for Filing an Objection.—All complaints by drivers of any foul driving or other misconduct during the race must be made at the termination of the race unless the driver is prevented from doing so by an accident or injury. Any driver desiring to enter a claim of foul or other complaint of violation of the rules must before dismounting indicate to the judges a desire to enter such claim or complaint and forthwith upon dismounting shall proceed to the telephone or judges' stand where and when such claim, objection or complaint shall be immediately entered. All drivers shall be responsible for lodging an objection, when necessary, with either the starter or patrol judge prior to dismounting unless prevented from doing so by accident or injury. The judges shall not cause the “official” sign to be displayed until such claim, objection or complaint shall have been entered and considered.

Sponsor: Charles Eaton, Plainridge Racecourse presiding judge, North Yarmouth, ME; Salvatore Panzera, Massachusetts Racing Commission judge, Millbury, MA

[The sponsors state: “*This proposal for change would be in support of fines and suspensions reason code NRC3, failure to file an objection, and if it doesn't become rule then NRC3 should be removed.*”]

13. A proposal to amend existing Rule 26.05 Artificial Insemination to allow frozen semen to be used in the breeding season, or year, immediately following castration or death:

26.05 Artificial Insemination. — A foal conceived by transported fresh or frozen semen shall be eligible for registration. The fact that the foal is the product of transported fresh or frozen semen shall be annotated on all documents relative to that foal, including but not limited to stallion reports, mating certificates, registration certificates and electronic eligibility certificates.

In the event of the castration or death of a stallion, semen frozen from such stallion may be used in the breeding season immediately following the breeding season, or year, in which such castration or death occurred. Foals by that stallion conceived from this period may be registered. No foal conceived by semen from that stallion after that time period is eligible for registration ~~no foal conceived by semen from that stallion in a year after said death or castration is eligible for registration.~~

Sponsor: Blue Chip Farms, LLC/Thomas R. Grossman

[The sponsor states: “*Sweden, and many other countries in the EU Trotting union allow for the extended use of a stallion's frozen semen for one breeding season beyond the season/year of death. For Sweden, this rule is outlined in section 9 of their registration rule book 9§ and confirmed by Christina Olsson, Director of Breeding Development, 'It is possible to use a stallion until the year after he died in Sweden (not later).'*” With many trotting stallions having shareholders on both sides of the Atlantic, the change to this rule would give equal access to the frozen semen for which each shareholder paid their pro-rated portion of production. Even in cases

where the shareholders all reside in the US, an extension of this time period would allow for final use of any frozen semen in storage.”]

14. A proposal to amend the third paragraph of existing Rule 26.06 Breeding Requirements to require breeding dates to be submitted monthly (note that Rule 27.05 will change accordingly with updated fees):

All persons standing a stallion at either public or private service shall file with the USTA a list of all mares bred to each stallion together with the dates of service. This list must be filed by September 1st monthly beginning March 1 through the completion of the breeding season with the final report being submitted no later than August 1 of the year of breeding. Failure to comply with this provision may subject the owner or lessee of the stallion to a fine of not less than \$10.00 or more than \$50.00. Application for registration may be refused from any person not complying with this rule.

Sponsor: Bridgette Jablonsky, Hanover, PA; Bob Boni, Secaucus, NJ; Mark Loewe, District 7 Director

[The sponsor states: “Recording and availability of breeding dates for each mare during the breeding season on a monthly basis will allow for accuracy, transparency and up-to-date, real-time, in-season information.”]

15. A proposal to amend the fifth paragraph of existing Rule 26.06 Breeding Requirements to change the verbiage on the limit of stallions bred to live foals:

The total live foals per mares bred to a stallion standing in the United States that has never bred a mare or had a list of mares bred filed previously shall not exceed 140. Stallion managers or corresponding officers shall have the final say to exclude in the case of the number exceeding 140. In the event within a given year the number of registered foals exceeds 140, an excess clause with up to 5 additional foals may be registered within a given year, however, the number of excess registered foals for the specific year will reduce the number from 140 registered foals minus the excess in the following year.

Sponsor: David Reid, Briarcliff Manor, NY

[The sponsor states: “To improve the Standardbred breed by enabling a higher number of registered foals while maintaining the parameters of genetic diversity within our breed. The number of registered foals since the 140 mares bred limit was instituted has in effect overcorrected the limit of foals a stallion. This amendment will provide an opportunity for all stallions, regardless of fertility to prolong their breeding career while at the same time increasing diversity in the breed. In practice, each stallion manager or corresponding officer will be required to evaluate individual stallion statistics to manage the stallion’s book accordingly.”]

16. A proposal to amend the fifth paragraph of existing Rule 26.06 Breeding Requirements to change the verbiage on the limit of stallions bred to live foals:

The total live foals per mares bred to a stallion standing in the United States that has never bred a mare or had a list of mares bred filed previously shall not exceed 140. Stallion managers or corresponding officers shall have the final say to exclude in the case of the number exceeding 140. Foals registered over the 140 number shall not be eligible to race until the three-year-old season.

Sponsors: Eric Cherry, Boca Raton, FL; Bill Donovan, Delray Beach, FL

[The sponsors state: “Due to different fertility and conception rates, there is a wide variance on how many foals are actually born to each Stallion. This amendment will level the playing field. This extra opportunity amongst stallions that are not quite fertile will give them more opportunity to succeed and therefore prolong their breeding career while at the same time increasing diversity in the breed. In practice each syndicate manager will be required to list the specifics of up to the first 140 mares per season then number those above 141, 142, and so on. Any baby born over the number, currently 140, would not be allowed to race until it’s three-year-old season as a penalty but all other registration and identification processes must happen at the same time as current.”]

17. A proposal to amend existing Rule 26.23 Embryo Transfer (d) and to add new subsection (i):

(e) Only a donor mare’s ~~first two first born~~ **first two** embryo/ovum transfer foal each year will be eligible for registration. A maximum of ~~one~~ **two** embryos per donor mare will be permitted to be transferred to ~~a~~ **two** recipient mares per heat cycle of the donor mare regardless of the number of embryos successfully recovered. Pregnancy in **each of** the recipient mares terminates the embryo collection process for the donor mare and also terminates the breeding of the donor mare for the duration of the same breeding season unless the recipient mares **are** is subsequently determined not to be pregnant in which case the transfer process may be reinitiated. The person having responsibility for the relevant breeding records must keep records adequate to enable the USTA to verify compliance with this requirement. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in a penalty fee.

(i) An embryo transfer mare may be bred to more than one stallion in a breeding season.

Sponsor: Eric Cherry, Boca Raton, FL

[The sponsor states: “The reason for doing this would be to have diversity, upgrade the quality of the mares bred and, in many cases, fill the books of stallions that would not otherwise be filled. This would not raise the ceiling and since it is very expensive to do this process, basically only the better-bred mares would be utilized for this. If rule number one passes, then the second foal of a mare would have to be numbers at the top of the list so for a full book it would have to be mares numbered (currently) over 140. This will also allow stallions without a full book, or those considered secondary in the market, a chance to get some well-bred mares.”]

18. A proposal to amend current Rule 27 Fees and Dues by adding new section 27.02 Standardbred Incentive Program Membership and re-numbering 27.02-27.12 accordingly, and Article 1 Section 1.01(b) Qualifications of Members of the Association bylaws to add new subsection (c) adding an additional membership type for participants of the Standardbred Incentive Program (SIP):

27.01 Individual Membership.

- (a) New Member (1 year) \$ 90.00
- (b) New Member (3 years) \$222.00
- (c) Renewal (1 year) \$ 75.00
- (d) Renewal (3 year) \$200.00

27.02 Standardbred Incentive Program Membership

- (a) New Member (1 year) \$45.00
- (b) New Member (3 years) \$100.00
- (c) Renewal (1 year) \$20.00
- (d) Renewal (3 years) \$50.00

1.01 **Qualifications of Members.** — The following shall qualify for membership in this association.

(a) **Track Members.**

1. Persons, firms, corporations, and agricultural societies and associations sponsoring and conducting meetings other than extended pari-mutuel harness race meetings.
2. Persons, firms, associations, and corporations conducting extended pari-mutuel harness race meetings.

(b) **Individual Members.**

1. Owners of registered Standardbred or non-Standardbred horses.
2. Officials licensed by the association.
3. Drivers licensed by the association.
4. Trainers licensed by the association.
5. Corporations, associations, individuals or stake secretaries sponsoring stakes or futurities, but not engaged in conducting race meetings.
6. Officers, directors, managers, speed superintendents, race secretaries and executive employees of corporations or associations conducting harness race meetings.
7. Officers, directors and stockholders of corporations owning and racing horses.
8. Farm managers or persons designated to verify breeding records.

(c) Standardbred Incentive Program Membership. A non-voting membership for participants in the Standardbred Incentive Program (SIP) only, for individuals competing in non-racing events with a registered Standardbred.

Sponsor: Helene Gregory, New Smyrna Beach, FL

[The sponsor states: “*The USTA membership fee for Standardbred Incentive Program (SIP) horse participation only, should be lowered. With the new SIP awards (similar to the Thoroughbred Incentive program, which is free) a lot of people with Standardbreds showing in multiple disciplines and with different riders \$90 is way too costly just to be eligible for an award when the participant has no other use for USTA’s services. My own horse, Jambalayabar Man, is shown by at least 6 different riders and it gets too expensive to enroll them all. A lower membership fee for them would mean I could enroll them all. For participants that use their Standardbreds for both racing and pleasure an individual membership would be required.*”]

19. A proposal to amend Article 5, Section 3(f):

- (j) The district board of directors of District 6 shall consist of five (5) members, ~~of which one (1) shall be elected by pari mutuel track members of sub-district 6A and one (1) of which~~ **two (2)** shall be elected by the pari-mutuel tracks of ~~sub-district 6B~~. Of the other three (3) general membership elected directors, one (1) shall be elected from sub-district 6A, one (1) from sub-district 6B with one (1) to be elected at large.

Sponsored by: Russell Williams, USTA President and District 7 Director; Joe Faraldo, USTA Chairperson of the Board and District 8A Director

[The sponsors state: “*The closure of Pompano Park leaves District 6A with no pari-mutuel racetrack, while District 6B will soon welcome a new harness track, Cumberland Run, which will join the Red Mile and Oak Grove as Standardbred facilities in the Bluegrass State. The proposed bylaw amendment would allow District 6 to retain its current number of track directors while reallocating their distribution to reflect the changing pari-mutuel landscape.*”]

20. A proposal to rename Article 10, Section 5 Roll Call Vote of the Association bylaws to Rule, Bylaw and Resolution Voting and to amend to call for voting to be handled electronically:

10.05 Rule, Bylaw and Resolution Voting. — All votes regarding rules, bylaws and/or resolutions shall be made electronically, with said results made available publicly. USTA will use properly licensed or purchased software to track such voting.

Current bylaw:

10.05 Roll Call Vote. — At the request of any five members of the board of directors, the vote on any rule, bylaw, or resolution shall be by roll call.

Sponsors: David Siegel, District 3 Director; Jason Settlemoir, District 12 Director

[The sponsors state: “This rule should be a no-brainer. Software to accomplish enforcement is inexpensive, easily attainable, and can be used on smartphones, tablets and PCs. The rule change has several primary motivations:

1. *Speed – This will save time at meetings rather than counting hands on close votes. It also eliminates the need for slow verbal roll call votes when called for.*
2. *Accuracy – Counts cannot be off using such a system and will tie back to numbers of directors present and can therefore include not only yes and no votes, but abstentions and absenteeism.*
3. *Transparency – As elected officials representing more than 15,000 members, members should be able to see how their representatives voted, just like other transparent and democratic organizations - libraries, school boards, Congress, Little League boards, etc. Members expect to know the position of their directors, and this meets that expectation in an easy and affordable manner.*
4. *Historic Reference – In case ever needed, the organization will have accurate counts, director by director, for each item voted upon.*

Cost – There are many software packages available so prices vary widely but should be in the neighborhood of \$55+ per month range and likely would need to use for three months.”]

21. A proposal to amend Article 12, Section 3 Abuse and Harassment of the Association bylaws by adding “member” to the text:

§12.03 Abuse and Harassment.— No director or officer of the association shall abuse or harass any ~~other~~ director, ~~or~~ officer, **member**, or any agent or employee of the association. Abuse or harassment shall be deemed to have occurred if the offending person (i) commits or threatens physical violence on another person, (ii) makes or engages in slurs, epithets, name calling, intimidation, ridicule, mockery, insults or put-downs that a reasonable person would consider to be offensive, (iii) makes physical contact or verbal statements that are sexual or suggestive in nature and are offensive or inappropriate, (iv) commits other acts that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile or abusive, or (v) commits any act that would be considered to be harassment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967. Any offending person shall be subject to disciplinary action by the board or by a committee designated by the board, at their discretion. Such disciplinary action may include, without limitation, the reprimanding or removal from office of the offending person. The disciplinary action shall be subject to appeal to the executive committee in accordance with Article VIII of the bylaws.

Sponsor: Ellen Harvey, Aiken, SC

[The sponsor states: “The proposed change streamlines syntax and adds ‘member’ to the description of those protected from abuse/harassment by directors/officers. Members should be afforded equal protection against abuse as directors, officers and staff. Leaving out the word member allows abuse without consequence. Voting against this would effectively give tacit approval to allow harassment of members by directors.”]



USTrotting