

The Racing Committee was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Driver/Trainer Committee Chairperson Jeff Gregory.

1. Roll was taken by Michele Kopiec. Present were: Chris Antonacci, Steve Bateson, Sam Beegle, Dave Bianconi, Jason Bluhm, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Barry Brown, Corey Callahan, Kim Crawford, George Ducharme, Joe Faraldo, Mark Ford, Joe Frasure, Jr., Rich Gillock, Kevin Greenfield, Jeff Gregory, Sam Hedington, Jacquie Ingrassia, Rick Kane, Mike Kimelman, Don Marean, John Matarazzo, Steve McCoy, Chris McErlean, Bob Miecuna, Jim Miller, Dr. John Mossbarger, Steve Oldford, Steve O'Toole, Joe Pennacchio, Jim Reynolds, Dr. Andy Roberts, Royal Roland, Jason Roth, Ray Schnittker, Jason Settlemoir, David Siegel, Matt Sparacino, Dein Spriggs, Mike Sweeney, Ashley Tetrick, Mike Torcello, Gabe Wand, Scott Warren, Shawn Wiles, Dr. Scott Woogen.

2. **2022 Proposed Rule and Bylaw Changes**

The following proposed rules were discussed and voted upon during the session:

- Proposal #1 – Rejected
- Proposals #2 - Accepted as amended “All extended pari-mutuel track infield ponds shall be enclosed by a fence or barrier.”
- Proposal #3 –Rejected
- Proposal #4 – Accepted
- Proposal #6 – Rejected
- Proposal # 7 – Rejected
- Proposal #8 – Rejected
- Proposal #9 – Rejected
- Proposal #10 – Rejected
- Proposal #11 – Rejected
- Proposal #12 – Rejected
- Proposal #18 – Accepted
- Proposal #19 –Accepted
- Proposal #20 – Accepted
- Proposal #21 – Rejected

3. **Regulatory Committee Update**

- Chairperson Faraldo cited the USTA Rule in regard to Medical Assistance -

§ 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. (Effective 05/01/2022)

The USTA has been asked to investigate the following, which took place at an extended PM track. We received the following (names of individuals and track have been omitted): "It was brought to my attention that there was no ambulance at X track. When questioned why, they were told that it was in for repair and would not be available on Monday or Tuesday when we raced. Our organization represents everyone that races at the track; the failure to have an ambulance onsite could be a life-or-death situation, particularly if there was an accident during a race."

We brought this matter to the attention of the Director of Racing and referenced the USTA Rule, which clearly states that an ambulance or similar vehicle must be at the track 30 minutes before post time until the end of the racing day. The unacceptable response was that a Ford Expedition is available and that the procedure met or exceeded the USTA requirement. This group was personally troubled by this statement and found the alternative unacceptable. They were further told that if that alternative would not be acceptable, they would cancel the racing day and not make it up. This group is asking for the USTA to provide clarification as to the definition of an ambulance.

We request that in accordance with the USTA rule, that it be required to ensure that an ambulance is at the track 30 minutes before post time until the end of the racing day. There are other companies that can be contacted if the ambulance is not available. As previously stated, the safety of everyone racing is at stake.

- TC Lane gave an update of the USTA Officials Intern and Education programs.
  - A full 60-hour accreditation course for racing officials was held September 11-19, 2022, at Los Alamitos Racecourse in Cypress, CA through the University of Arizona in conjunction with the USTA and ROAP. There were 48 total participants, 11 of which were designated harness officials. TC Lane, Michele Kopiec and USTA licensed presiding judge Scott Egger served as instructors in areas including judging responsibilities, communication, accident protocol, the eTrack system and FAS.
  - The USTA also sponsored two interns, chosen from more than a dozen applicants, who completed the ROAP accreditation course in California. One intern has already obtained full-time employment as an associate judge, while the second awaits the final phase of practical training. In addition, two partial scholarships were offered to two candidates, both of which have been trained to serve in their respective capacities as officials in Indiana and Pennsylvania.
  - The USTA participated in an Ohio Judges meeting, coordinated by the OHHA, on June 11, 2022, in Urbana, OH. 25 Ohio racing officials attended to discuss race-day conduct and safety, communication with drivers and other fair racing concerns.
  - In conjunction with Harrington Raceway, hosted a Mid-Atlantic Harness Racing Career Day at Harrington Raceway on Oct. 3, providing career paths for roughly two dozen individuals. Other speakers participating included Delaware Standardbred Owners Association Executive Director Sal DiMario and industry veteran Scott Egger.
  - The USTA co-sponsored an 8-hour continuing education program on October 22, 2022 at Dayton Raceway. The CE, which was led by USTA-licensed judge Mike Woebkenberg, was attended by 27 Ohio racing officials. Topics included race-day procedures and safety, respect and control in the judge's stand and no contest races.
  - The USTA conducted a 16-hour continuing education seminar for licensed racing officials at the Meadows Racetrack and Casino on November 20-21, 2022. The class was attended by 26 USTA-licensed and ROAP accredited judges from seven states and one province.

#### 4. **Fairs Committee Update**

- Chairperson Skip Hoover and Jessica Schroeder provided an update on the Ohio County Fair Best Practices. In 2008, the USTA produced the original document. In December of 2022, at the request of the OHHA and the OSRC, we have begun to update the booklet. We anticipate the updates to be in place by May 1 of this year, with an opportunity for this document to be shared and modified in various states, outside of Ohio and shared with all of you as well.
- Jessica Schroeder provided an update on the USTA Matching Funds Program. In 2022, the USTA received 9 applications and distributed \$10,296 for promotional items. Examples are coffee mugs, koozies and key chains. and \$5,253 for marketing their fair. Deadline for 2023 applications is May 5, 2023.

#### 5. **Pari-Mutuel Committee Update**

- Mark Loewe, on behalf of Michael Carter, provided an update on the Strategic Wagering program. Overall, strategic wagers handled \$36.5 million in 2022, down from \$43.9 million in 2021. With the changing of the chairperson in 2023, as Chris Schick steps down and Michael Carter takes over beginning April 1, Carter wants to refresh the Strategic Wagering Committee. Committee members need to be engaged and committed to advancing the platform - a new perspective is always a positive with any committee. A refresh offers new possibilities and insights to continue the successes of the Strategic Wagering program.
- Mark Loewe discussed Grand Circuit Events and Graded Stakes. Loewe referenced the 2022 Race Secretary meeting where they discussed promotions of Grand Circuit races. Some Grand Circuit events race for less money than others, but should hold same clout. The goal is for PPs, results, sale catalogs etc. to use a Graded Stakes program. Is there an appetite/need for the Graded Stakes program? David Reid mentioned monetary gain for USTA in reference to the updates to Sale Pedigrees. Russell Williams mentioned how to raise purse monies on Grand Circuit events that don't particularly benefit from the racinos as state programs do, Sire Stakes, B level Sire Stakes etc. John Campbell shared concerns with reference to Graded Stakes and how it would affect the Triple Crown. He also questioned who would be grading the events.
- Jason Roth discussed the Trackmaster contract. There was a recent cost increase for TM programs when tracks are already paying dues and fees for the information. He would like to add stipulation in the contract to exclude member tracks from a price increase. Mike Tanner gave insight to the Trackmaster contract, which was initially signed in 2003 and has been extended five times, the latest in 2020 (and will run through 2025). The USTA receives a percentage of revenue from all TM products, but TM prohibits any electronic issuance of PPs without their agreement. We may need to explore options to give a break to member tracks that choose to provide PPs on their website.
- Michele Kopiec provided information on the recent integration of Tote feed from United Tote into the eTrack system. This major IT project now incorporates mutuel data into eTrack and has not only proven to be a timesaver for charters, but also ensures better data integrity by eliminating errors occurring from typos. The pilot track, Miami Valley Raceway, begun using the tote feed on Tuesday, February 28 and has now expanded to Monticello Raceway, Buffalo Raceway, Dover Downs, Rosecroft, Northfield Park, The Meadows, Freehold, Meadowlands, Hoosier, Saratoga, Cal-Expo, and Pocono Downs. The rollout will continue with all pari-mutuel tracks being brought onboard over the next month.

#### 6. **Driver/Trainer Committee Update**

- Michele Kopiec stated that a Spanish version of the driver/trainer exam is now available. She also provided licensing statistics for 2022, with a total of 3,268 drivers and 4,042 trainers being licensed, a 9% decrease from 2021. However, the number of new licenses issued remains relatively the same. A new policy was recommended to all exam supervisors to request a form of identification prior to proctoring an exam. Other

updates included the publication of an updated driver/trainer study guide and the production of a Spanish exam.

- Steve Oldford provided a recap of the 2022 amateur driving club activity which included 14 registered Driving Clubs and 400 amateur races. Looking forward to a great 2023.
- Mike McNeely, Van Gundy Insurance Agency, gave an in-depth overview of the disability income program with accidental death and dismemberment and new Outrider program written by Van Gundy, underwritten by Chubb insurance. There are no rate changes for 2023. There are 3,964 members eligible for coverage with 131 opting in. Mike welcomes any suggestions to increase participation.

## 7. **New Business**

- A presentation was made by Tim Bohannon, president of the Nevada Standardbred Association (NVSA), to explain the possibility and need for support of Standardbred racing in the state of Nevada. NVSA was founded in 2018 to sponsor and promote racing, breeding and development programs, to represent members in negotiations with track operations, recommend rule changes that support industry growth, collaborate with racing associations on topics beneficial to the sport, and to consult and support higher education to increase offerings in equine care, training and business. Bohannon provided information on the history of racing in Nevada since 1953 and the lessons learned in the failed attempts to continue pari-mutuel racing in the state. NVSA, along with Western Standardbred Alliance (WSA), are looking to gain approval of Nevada Regulation 30 – Horse Racing, to include Standardbred racing. They have proposed plans to create the Pahrump Valley Equine Performance Center of Excellence, which would house a 7/8th miles track, grandstand, vet hospital, RV campgrounds, casino, family fun center, and more. NVSA seeks legislative support on horse regulations and fixed odds wagering in Nevada, financial/capital for site development, supply of race-ready horses, hands-on staffing, and a strong breeding program.
- John Campbell made an announcement of a potential rule change proposal that will be coming for 2024, to be sponsored by Anthony MacDonald to consider the first stake payment to be paid at time of purchase of yearling or November 15<sup>th</sup> of yearling year.

As there were no other matters to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.