

2024 ADOPTED RULE AND BYLAW CHANGES

The following proposed rule and bylaw changes were considered by the USTA Board of Directors at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Unless otherwise noted, these changes will go into effect on May 1, 2024. Additions are **bold underlined**; deletions are ~~struck out~~.

1. 4.114 **No Contest**—If the judges are unable to properly judge the running or finish of a race, they may declare the race “no contest.” ~~(When the race is declared no contest, all monies wagered are refunded, and no purse distribution may be made.)~~ **When a race is declared a no contest, all monies wagered are refunded and purse distribution shall be made per Rule 13.05. Purse money distributed as a result of such contest shall be added to the lifetime earnings of each horse but will not affect eligibility.**

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) through (d) unchanged

(e) If there be any premium or premiums for which horses have started but were unable to finish ~~in due to an no contest accident all unoffending horses who did not finish will share equally in such premium or premiums,~~

1. **An equal premium distribution shall be made to all non-offending horses if the judges determine a deliberate or negligent action by a driver, participant, or horse caused the no contest, and no premium distribution shall be made to an offending horse; or,**

2. **An equal premium distribution shall be made to all horses in a race if the judges determine the no contest was the result of unintentional error, omission, or outside force with no fault attributable to any horse, driver, or participant.**

~~3. b~~ **But** where there are fewer unoffending horses failing to finish than there are premiums for which horses have started but have not finished, the number of premiums in excess of the number of unoffending horses not finishing shall go to the winner.

(f) If there be any premium or premiums for which horses have started but were unable to finish and the situation is not covered by the preceding such premium shall be paid to the winner. (*Effective 1/1/2025*)

2. 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 ~~one state certified~~ **one state certified** paramedic ~~and one~~ **and one** emergency medical technician, or the equivalent, and an ambulance ~~or other suitable transportation~~ available on the premises **with direct proximity, clear visibility and immediate access to the racetrack** 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 ~~and~~ **and staffed with one two or more state certified paramedic and one emergency medical technician that are equipped to treat trauma and acute illness. At no time shall the ambulance be left unmanned; at least one licensed paramedic shall remain with the ambulance at all times. Such ambulance shall be properly and fully equipped to include a defibrillator and other such equipment as directed by the respective regulatory authority, licensed to operate on public highways and ready for immediate transportation to a 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. **The permit holder must not allow any horses on the racetrack and may not conduct a race until another ambulance is on site.**

3. **5.17 Accident Warning Lights.**—Every extended pari-mutuel track member shall be equipped with a **three-light** system of **green, yellow and red** beacon-style warning lights **and sirens** for use in the event of an accident.

4. 6.11 (g) Require all buckles on front hobble hangers **and driving line buckles attached to the bit** be taped.

5. 6.11 Duties of the judges.—

(a) through (g) unchanged

(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;~~ **or,**

6. The judges activate the red accident warning light and siren.

6. 6.12 **Procedure of the Judges.**—**At all extended pari-mutuel tracks** it shall be the procedure of the judges to:

(a) Be in the judges’ stand **15 minutes before the first race** and remain in the stand at all times when **the on-site medical team is on premises, in place, and ready to provide medical assistance consistent with Rule 5.16** the horses are upon the track.

(b) and (c) unchanged

(d) Monitor, control and trigger the accident-warning lights. From the time medical assistance is available, the judges will activate the green “all clear” light to signal no known problems on the racetrack.

1. If at any point during the card the judges determine there is a condition on the racetrack requiring the drivers to proceed with caution, the judges will activate the yellow “caution” warning light.

2. The judges shall activate the red light and siren to declare a race a “no contest” due to safety issues. Upon the activation of the red light and siren, all drivers in a race will immediately cease racing and follow any instructions of the judges, starter, track announcer, or racing officials to get off the track as quickly and safely as they can. Drivers refusing to stop racing may be subject to a monetary penalty or suspension.

3. When the red “no contest” light is turned off, the judges will activate the green “all clear” light as a signal for warm-ups and live racing to resume.

(e)(d) Post the “objection” sign, or “inquiry” sign, on the odds board in the case of a complaint or possible rule violation, and immediately notify the announcer of the objection or inquiry and the horse or horses involved. As soon as the judges have made a decision, the “objection” sign or “inquiry” sign shall be removed, the correct placing displayed, and the “official” sign flashed. In all instances the judges shall post the order of finish and the “official” sign as soon as they have made their decision. In addition the judges shall cause the “inquiry” sign to be posted whenever there has been an accident during the course of the race.

(f) Display the photo sign if the order of finish among the contending horses is less than a half-length or a contending horse is on a break at the finish.

7. **14.10 (b) When there is more than one division in any race, horses will be split by owners, then trainers for each division.**

8. **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. The judges shall not cause the "official" sign to be displayed until such claim, objection or complaint shall have been entered and considered.

9. **(I) Other Provisions**

1. Any change of name to a previously approved sulky must be reported to the USTA within 30 days by submitting a signed affidavit indicating the previous and current name of the sulky model. Failure to submit an affidavit within 30 days shall result in a fine of \$1,000.
 2. **A change of ownership to a sulky manufacturing company must be reported to the USTA within 30 days of sale by submitting a signed affidavit by the former and new owner. Failure to submit an affidavit within 30 days shall result in a fine of \$1,000 to both parties.**
 3. **In the event a previously approved sulky is modified in any way, including but not limited to change in materials used or any change to style, such modification must be reported to the USTA and the modified version may be required to undergo additional performance testing at the expense of the manufacturer. Failure to submit any modification shall result in a fine of \$5,000.**
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10. **20.12 Coggins Test.**—It shall be the responsibility of the trainer of a horse to furnish to the racing office a negative "Coggins Test Certificate" properly identifying the horse by lip tattoo, freeze brand or microchip number issued by an approved laboratory certifying that within the prior 12 months the horse has been tested negative, before it will be allowed entrance to or remain upon the grounds of a track member conducting any type of meeting. Such report shall be entered on the electronic eligibility of the horse.

- (a) **When it is determined that a horse is infected with and/or is a carrier of equine infectious anemia, such horse shall thereafter be prohibited from racing and/or being stabled at a member track.**
 - (b) **No owner, trainer, driver, attendant or other person representing a horse which has previously tested positive for equine infectious anemia shall knowingly cause said horse to be declared into any race; and no owner, trainer, driver, attendant or other person shall seek to bring about the transfer of such a horse without first notifying the prospective purchaser or transferee of the fact that the horse had previously tested positive for equine infectious anemia.**
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11. **11.02 Election of Officers.**

- (a) The board of directors shall elect the following officers to the following terms at its annual meeting:
 1. President for a term of four (4) years.
 2. Chairperson of the board to a **two (2)** ~~one (1)~~ year term.
 3. Vice-Chairperson to a **two (2)** ~~one (1)~~ year term.
 4. Secretary to a **two (2)** ~~one (1)~~ year term.
 5. Treasurer to a **two (2)** ~~one (1)~~ year term. (Effective 3/9/2024)
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12. **12.03 Abuse and Harassment.**—No director or officer of the association shall abuse or harass any other director or officer, or any agent or employee of the association, **with respect to any matter. No director or officer of the association shall abuse or harass any member of the association or any other person who is involved in the Standardbred breeding and racing industry in connection with the adoption, implementation,**

application, or enforcement of the rules and policies of the association; provided, however, that this rule shall not apply to other disagreements or confrontations between a person who happens to be a director or officer of the association and another person who is a member of the association or is involved in the Standardbred breeding and racing industry, such as a disagreement over conduct on the racetrack between a director who is a driver and another driver.

13. 4.10 **Beneficial Owner**—The term “beneficial owners” includes: the owner; in the case of multiple ownership, all co-owners; all shareholders owning 5% or more of any class of stock and all officers and directors of any corporation which is a “beneficial owner”; all partners of a general partnership and in the case of a limited partnership; all general partners and those limited partners owning a 5% or more interest in such **general or limited partnerships which is a “beneficial owner”**; **all stallion syndicate shareholders owning 5% or more interest in the stallion syndicate**; all lessees; and all corresponding officers. ®

14. 7.06 **Tattoo/Freeze Brand/Microchip Requirements.**—No horse that has not been tattooed or freeze branded or implanted with a microchip as authorized by the USTA will be permitted to start at any an extended pari-mutuel meeting unless the permission of the presiding judge is obtained and arrangements are made to have the horse tattooed or freeze branded or implanted with a microchip. Any person refusing to allow a horse to be tattooed/freeze branded/microchipped by a USTA representative may be fined, suspended or expelled, or further applications for registrations submitted by such person may be refused.

15. 26.06 **Breeding Requirements.**—

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 of the year of breeding. Failure to comply with this provision may subject the owner or lessee of the stallion to a **fee as prescribed in Rule 27.06** fine of not less than \$10.00. Application for registration may be refused from any person not complying with this rule.

All brood mares must be blood typed or DNA genotyped at a USTA-approved laboratory.

16. **26.24 Horse Identification and Parentage Verification.** — **The parentage of all foals shall be verified by DNA Genotyping by a USTA-approved laboratory. The permanent identification (freeze brand or microchip) of foals shall be done simultaneously with the collection of hair from the foal for DNA genotyping, both of which shall be accomplished under the supervision of a USTA employee, director or other individual so designated by the President or Executive Vice-President. No ownership transfer of a foal will be recorded by the USTA unless said foal has been permanently identified and its parentage verified. Permanent identification assigned and administered by the USTA or Standardbred Canada, including lip tattoo, neck freeze brand, microchip, or any future identification method, may not be altered or obliterated.**