

The Registration Committee was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by Registration Committee Chair Dr. John Mossbarger.

1. Roll call was taken by COO and Registrar TC Lane. Present were: Dr. John Mossbarger, Dan Bittle, Chris Antonacci, Steve Bateson, Sam Beegle, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Cathy Dessert, Mark Ford, Richard Gillock, Kevin Greenfield, Jeff Gregory, Sam Hedington, Jacqueline Ingrassia, Don Marean, Steve McCoy, Steve Oldford, Joe Pennacchio, Dr. Andy Roberts, Ray Schnittker, Mike Sweeney, Cathy Webb, Dr. Scott Woogen, President Williams.
2. The following proposed rules were discussed and voted upon during the session. (all TBD until vote)
 - 2- Rejected
 - 10- Rejected
 - 11- Tabled
 - 25- Rejected
 - 29- Accepted
 - 30- Accepted
 - 31- Accepted
 - 32- Accepted
3. Lane provided the committee with the 2023 Summary Report and Trends:
 - All numbers, including membership continue to move upward. In terms of other breeds, our stats are favorable, as we are one of the very few registries to witness an increase. North American LOMB has once again shown an increase over 2022. Currently, there are 19,938 mares bred in NA, up from 2022, which was 18,887. Anticipate with late submissions that it will place us over 20,000 mares, which was where we were 15 years ago. From a membership standpoint, we have rebounded back to our numbers from 2013, so again, a positive trend. The states that represent the largest numbers remain IN, OH, PA, NY, IL in terms of being in the top 5 producing states by mare residence and sire matings.
 - Lane also indicated that one item for special consideration is the number of non-commercial stallions that are breeding mares not intended to compete on the racetrack. In 2022, there were an estimated 2,500 plus mares that fit that category and more in 2023.
 - Regarding identification, there were 9,233 horses identified in total. From that figure, 2,218 received chip/brand same day, 4,925 chip only and 2,090 were brand only.
 - Lane also encouraged the board to take a closer look at the expansion of online products and services, in addition to the outreach efforts. The increase in online commerce has continued to grow. The downside of that is that while it does reduce staff labor, it does cost to process credit card. You will notice that in the financials, that number continues to rise, nearly \$200k/year.
4. COO/Registrar Lane provided an update and overview of the following studies and research underway with UC Davis. A full report of the genomic and foal abnormalities details will be provided to the committee as soon as it is available.
5. Assistant Registrar Aimee Hock touched on the importance of lists of mares bred, which is the foundation of the registration process, forecasts the future of registration statistics, pedigrees, and information provided in the Breeder's Book. The USTA has created online platforms such as eSales, to make the registration of a horse

easier for members. These platforms allow members to release mating certificates online. The USTA has made efforts to reach out to all stallion owners to report lists of mares bred in a timely manner. To help this, the fee for the reporting of lists of mares bred will increase to \$25 per mare after the annual September 1 deadline.

6. Lane presented the issue of handling and the approval of the process of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). An explanation of the process and how other registries, including our international counterparts were mentioned. At the most recent World Trotting Conference in August, it was recommended that no foal as a result of ICSI would be eligible for registration. That does not prohibit this board from approving the practice or require the board to adopt that recommendation. Chairperson Mossbarger suggested that the topic be taken to the scientific members of the committee to provide that recommendation and will report to the registration committee at a later date.

Dr. Andy Roberts gave more detail on the procedure and noted that it would allow a mare with exceptional genetics who has not been able to get in foal, the possibility of being able to produce a foal. He also noted that the procedure would be extremely costly, even more so than embryo transfer.

President Williams asked if there were any scientific studies to back the decision of the World Trotting Conference, to which TC Lane responded that he would obtain the studies for the committee to review.

7. Cathy Webb on the topic of frozen embryos, providing her own experience of a mare whose ovaries were excised and frozen after a catastrophic accident. She would like to see mare owners have the same option to use a frozen embryo in the year after she passes or is spayed, the same as stallion semen can be used. Cathy recognized that it would need to be highly regulated and that noted that reproductive labs would be approved prior to being allowed to perform the procedure.
8. Lane explained that the number of foals that were produced from frozen semen to countries outside of the US has increased considerably over the last few years. From a recording standpoint, upon reentry back to the US, the resulting figure now creates stallions being listed as producing more than the 140 mares. In almost every instance, the initial mating was never recorded with the USTA by the US stallion or syndicate manager for obvious reasons.
 - Lane asked the committee -
 - The Registration Committee indicated that they would prefer a separate category to segregate the number of foreign registered foals by stallions who are also standing in the US. For instance, a stallion that breeds 135 mares in the US, who also registers 10 additional foreign foals will show 145 mares bred for that season. We currently do not act on or penalize those US stallions for being over the limit in those instances, as long as the foal was first registered in a foreign country. Currently, we treat those “overages” internally.
 - It has been brought to our attention that in some state programs may be determining eligibility for foals based upon the entire list of LOMB, including foreign matings for those sires.
9. As mentioned in the 2023 statistical review, Lane noted there is a reasonable concern that we are experiencing an inflated number of mares being recorded that may not result in a racing performer. It was initially mentioned that the Registration Committee would be presented with a report or request for consideration from the alternative use segment of the industry, although they had not provided such a document. It is worth noting that while the number of mares continue to increase, the percentage of starters are declining. Lane is of the opinion that the actual number of starters are actually increasing from a commercial standpoint, although the aggregate number mares include the buggy/Amish intended market. That said, the states should safely be reducing the total potential population by roughly 5%, when forecasting their stock for the upcoming season.
 - The question is whether this committee would like the USTA staff to begin segregating commercial racing stallions by creating a separate LOMB for the off-track stallions matings or treat any Standardbred stallion the same, regardless of the intent of use. The committee indicated that they would look into the matter more closely.

10. The Registration Committee met in executive session. The action taken by the committee will be provided to the petitioners in the coming week.

As there were no other matters to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m..