

The Racing Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Driver/Trainer Chairperson, Jeff Gregory.

- Roll was taken by Michele Kopiec. Present were Steve Bateson, Sam Beegle, Jason Bluhm, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Barry Brown, Corey Callahan, Stacy Chiodo, Cara Collins, Kim Crawford, Sal DiMario, Cathy Dessert, George Ducharme, Joe Faraldo, Mark Ford, Joe Frasure Jr., Rich Gillock, Jeff Gregory, Edison Hatter, Sam Hedington, Rick Kane, Ben Kenney, Mike Kimelman, Don Marean, Steve McCoy, Chris McErlean, Jim Miller, Joe Morris, Dr. John Mossbarger, Steve Oldford, Steve O'Toole, Joe Pennacchio, Jim Reynolds, Dr. Andy Roberts, Royal Roland, Jason Roth, Ray Schnittker, Jason Settlemoir, Matt Sparacino, Dein Spriggs, Mike Sweeney, Ashley Tetrick, Mike Torcello, Gabe Wand, Cathy Webb, Shawn Wiles, Russell Williams, and Dr. Scott Woogen.
- **Regulatory Committee Update**
 - Joe Faraldo gave a report on the USTA Sulky Standards Committee. Took action and revoked approval of a race bike that failed after initial approval meeting testing standards.
 - TC Lane informed the board that a full 60-hour accreditation course for racing officials will be held June 23-30, 2025, at Scioto Downs in conjunction with the Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP). TC, along with Michele Kopiec and a host of USTA licensed presiding judges, will serve as instructors in areas including judging responsibilities, communication, accident protocol, the eTrack system and FAS. Lane also mentioned that Ceasars/Hoosier had hosted an extremely successful CE in November of 2024, in which roughly 30 racing officials from several different jurisdictions participated.
- **2025 Proposed Rule and Bylaw Changes**

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

 - Proposal #1 – Rejected
 - Proposal #2 - Rejected
 - Proposal #3 –Approved
 - Proposal #4 – Approved as amended
 - Proposal #5 – Rejected
 - Proposal #6 – Tabled
 - Proposal # 7 – Rejected
 - Proposal #8 – Rejected
 - Proposal #9 – Rejected
 - Proposal #10 – Approved as amended to approve sections (c), (h) and (m)
 - Proposal #11 – Rejected
 - Proposal #12 – Approved
 - Proposal #13 –Approved as amended
 - Proposal #14 –Approved
 - Proposal #15 –Approved
 - Proposal #16 –Approved
 - Proposal #17 – Approved
 - Proposal #20 – Approved
 - Proposal #23 – Approved
 - Proposal #26 – Approved
 - Proposal #27 - Approved
 - Proposal #28 – Approved

- Proposal #29 - Approved
 - Proposal #30 – Approved
 - Proposal #31 – Approved
 - Proposal #32 – Approved
 - Proposal #33 – Approved
 - Proposal #34 – Approved
 - Proposal #35- Approved
 - Proposal #36 – Approved
 - Proposal #37 – Approved
 - Proposal #38 – Approved
 - Proposal #39 – Approved
 - Proposal #40 – Approved
 - Proposal #41-Approved
- **Fairs Committee Update**
 - Jessica Schroeder provided an update on the USTA Matching Funds Program, which has assisted over 150 fairs and county horsemen’s associations since 2006. Originally providing \$10,000 in advertising assistance, the line item was increased to \$20,000 in 2012. The program has morphed over the years to be the new “Fair Assistance Program” to also include Promotional Item Reimbursement and the Bulk Purchasing program.
- **Pari-Mutuel Committee Update**
 - Mark Loewe discussed the implementation of Graded Stakes which is now available in USTA pedigrees for races in the US and Canada.
- **Driver/Trainer Committee Update**
 - Mike and Gail McNeely of VanGundy Insurance Agency, gave an in-depth overview of the disability income program with accidental death and dismemberment as well as Equine liability and mortality written by VanGundy, underwritten by Chubb insurance. There are no rate changes for 2025. As of February 1, 2025, there are 3,686 USTA members eligible for coverage with 122 opting in to the voluntary program – the program continues to struggle. Mike and Gail encourage directors to promote the program to their horsemen, informational pamphlets are available for distribution and a PDF version is available on the USTA website.
- **Open Discussion**
 - Chris McErlean asked about the Equine Health and Wellness Database. TC confirmed that the database is live and available in USTA MyAccount for reporting since June 2024.

As there were no other matters to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12p.m.