

FINES AND SUSPENSIONS BULLETIN

Fri, Jan 2 - Thu, Jan 8

PART ONE

The following action has been taken by the United States Trotting Association. This information is in an abbreviated form.

***** NO RECORDS FOUND *****

PART TWO - MAJOR PENALTIES

The following actions published herein and imposed pursuant to the rules and regulations of the racing commissions of the various states and provinces are given full faith and credit and strictly enforced by the United States Trotting Association consistent with the provisions of USTA Rule 22, Sections 7 and 8 relative to RECIPROCITY OF PENALTIES. The fact that there is no separate action taken by the USTA in the form of a "ruling of reciprocity" shall not be construed as a failure to recognize and/or reciprocate with these published penalties. Please note that the following action is in an abbreviated form and that the USTA is not responsible for the accuracy or timeliness of reported penalties. Further information may be available by contacting the racing commission where the ruling was issued to determine the accuracy of the information.

BONGIORNO, JOSEPH R

M on 11/21/2025

MONROE, NJ

FINED: \$500

YOB 1993

FULL - 15 DAYS, 1/2/2026 THRU 1/16/2026

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Joe Bongiorno was the programmed trainer of the horse "Abby's Dance" when she raced in the fifth race at The Meadowlands Racetrack on November 21, 2025. Following the race, "Abby's Dance" was required to submit urine for analysis. A report from Industrial Laboratories identified the presence of Atropine. As a result, Mr. Bongiorno is hereby issued a full suspension of his New Jersey Racing Commission license for a period of fifteen (15) days and is fined the sum of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. Said suspension shall begin on January 2, 2026 and run through January 16, 2026 inclusive. During the period of suspension, Mr. Bongiorno is denied access to all grounds that are under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Racing Commission. Mr. Bongiorno has waived his right to a hearing with the Board of Judges and has accepted the penalties associated with this ruling. Consistent with N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 the horse "Abby's Dance" is disqualified from sharing in all purse monies earned on November 21, 2025. The fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before January 16, 2026. MMV Points incurred 1/2 point Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-1.19 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.1 (a) (b) 14 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.6 (a) (b) (c) (d) Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 (a) (b) (c) (d)

BONTRAGER, DARYL J

Gshn on 7/19/2025

GOSHEN, IN

FINED: \$1,000

YOB 1988

**HORSE DISQUALIFIED, PURSE
REDISTRIBUTION**

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Industrial Laboratories reported that sample #E541418 provided by the horse TUGGIN THOMAS trained by Daryl Bontrager following its first place finish in the fifth race at the Elkhart County Fair (Goshen) on 7/19/25 contained Bethamethasone in the blood at a level of 25.9 pg/ml which exceeds the level permitted in accordance with the standard used in Indiana County Fair Races as prescribed by the Indiana Horse Racing Commission Rules,

71 IAC 8-1-4.2. Daryl Bontrager, trainer of TUGGIN THOMAS was advised of this positive test and of his rights to split sample testing. Trainer Bontrager chose to waive his right to send a split sample. Trainer Daryl Bontrager is hereby ordered a fine in the amount of \$1,000, which has been paid. The purse money won by TUGGIN THOMAS is hereby ordered forfeited and redistributed among the horses according to their order of finish.

BROWN, NICK
Mea on 1/2/2026

PITTSBURGH, TX

YOB 1973

FINED: \$50

INDEFINITE SUSPENSION(IND) AS OF 1/13/2026

FAILURE TO OBTAIN PROPER LICENSE

PA Code Title 7: 203.11(a) 203.11(e) 203.23(b) Mr. Brown owns a horse called BETTER BE BABY that race at The Meadows on 10/24/2025. Mr. Brown has yet to complete the required The Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission's licensing requirements for owners. Mr. Brown is fined \$50 (fines are due within ten days of this ruling) and issued an indefinite full suspension starting January 13, 2026. Appeals are due within ten days of ruling and must be submitted in writing (accompanied by a \$750 bond) to: The PA State Horse Racing Commission, 2301 N. Cameron St., Room 304, Harrisburg, PA 17110 ATTN: Anthony Salerno

CAPONE, CAMERON M
M on 11/7/2025

CLARKSBURG, NJ
FINED: \$1,000

YOB 1999

IMPROPER CONDUCT OR LANGUAGE TO AN OFFICIAL

A hearing was held at The Meadowlands judge's office on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 to investigate the conduct of Mr. Capone after the seventh race at The Meadowlands racetrack on November 7, 2025. As a result of this hearing, trainer Cameron Capone is hereby fined the sum of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars for using profane language with a racing official and disturbing the peace by acting in an obnoxious manner while on the grounds of an association. The payment of the fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before January 17, 2026. In addition to the penalty issued in this ruling, Mr. Capone must also comply with the conditions set forth in a confidential letter to him dated December 16, 2025. Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-1.6, N.J.A.C. 13:71-1.7, N.J.A.C. 13:71-7.29 (a) 6, 9.

HITE, JUSTIN
Nfld on 7/20/2025

GARRETSVILLE, OH
FINED: \$1,000

YOB 1979

FULL - 365 DAYS, 1/16/2026 THRU 1/15/2027

POSSESSION OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES, SYRINGES AND/OR INJECTABLE AND/OR OTHER DRUGS

On July 20, 2025 a search was conducted of the truck/trailer of Justin Hite. During this search the investigator located a small tan bag in the bed of the truck. When the investigator removed the bag from the truck, she observed several needles and two used syringes and one injectable bottle. Mr. Hite had a hearing with the judges at Northfield Park on 7/23/25. After considering all testimony and evidence he is fined \$1000 and suspended 365 days. If this ruling is not appealed the fine will be reduced to a \$500 fine and 365 days.

These are prohibited items and constitutes action that is against the best interest of racing. Mr. Hite is barred from all grounds governed by the OSRC during his suspension. Any horses under his care that he wants to transfer to another owner or trainer must be approved by the judges at Northfield Park. O.S.R.C-3769-18-07 (A) 3769-2-26 (A) (10) 12-99 17-30 (B) 17-33 (A) The fine must be paid by 8/3/25.

Status as of 1/5/2026 - Subsequent Ruling - Mr. Hite's original ruling is upheld. Ruling #25NFLD-245 He is hereby suspended for 365 days and fined \$1000. O.S.R.C.-3769-18-07 (A) 3769-2-26 (A) (10) 12-99 17-30 (B) 17-33 (A)

LARE, SHEA
DD on 1/9/2025

HARRINGTON, DE YOB 2001
RESTORED TO GOOD STANDING(RES) AS OF
1/1/2026

FAILURE TO PAY FINE(S)

DHRC Trainer Shea Lare, as of 2/26/2025, is under a FULL Indefinite Suspension for failing to comply with the directives of DHRC ruling: DOV-57-24.

Status as of 1/6/2026 - Subsequent Ruling - Shea Lare has paid his fines and completed the suspension he was given. Shea Lare signed the conditional license agreement. As of 1/1/26 Mr. Lare is now restored to good standing with the DHRC.

MCMAHON RHODES, DONNA J
Mea on 1/2/2026

PATASKALA, OH YOB 1946
FINED: \$50
INDEFINITE SUSPENSION(IND) AS OF 1/13/2026

FAILURE TO OBTAIN PROPER LICENSE

PA Code Title 7: 203.11(a) 203.11(e) 203.23(b) As part of WHITE OAK HORSE FARM, Ms. Donna J. McMahon Rhodes owns a horse called BACK DOOR MAN that race at The Meadows on 10/9/2025. Ms. Donna J. McMahon Rhodes has yet to complete the required The Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission's licensing requirements for owners. Ms. Donna J. McMahon Rhodes is fined \$50 (fines are due within ten days of this ruling) and issued an indefinite full suspension starting January 13, 2026. Appeals are due within ten days of ruling and must be submitted in writing (accompanied by a \$750 bond) to: The PA State Horse Racing Commission, 2301 N. Cameron St., Room 304, Harrisburg, PA 17110 ATTN: Anthony Salerno

MINSHEW, STACIA
Nfld on 11/4/2013

BELL, FL YOB 1980
RESTORED TO GOOD STANDING(RES) AS OF
1/8/2026

FALSIFICATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION

Ms. Williams is hereby suspended until she contacts the judges at Northfield Park regarding her 2013 OSRC license. O.S.R.C.-3769-12-26(A)(7) 12-99

Status as of 1/8/2026 - Subsequent Ruling - Ms. Minshaw has contacted the judges at Northfield Park concerning her 2013 OSRC license. and is restored to good standing in Ohio.

MOWOD, MICHAEL

CANONSBURG, PA

YOB 2004

Mea on 1/2/2026

INDEFINITE SUSPENSION(IND) AS OF 1/13/2026

FAILURE TO PAY FINE(S)

PA Code Title 7: 205.502 Mr. Mowod has failed to pay the \$200 fine issued in ruling #25133M from the Meadows. Mr. Mowod is issued an indefinite suspension (beginning January 13, 2026) until that fine is paid in full. An appeal of this ruling is due within ten days and must be submitted in writing (accompanied by a \$750 bond) to: The PA State Horse Racing Commission, 2301 N. Cameron St., Room 304, Harrisburg, PA 17110 ATTN: Anthony Salerno

MULTARI, FRANK

M on 11/6/2025

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

YOB 1954

FINED: \$500

FULL - 15 DAYS, 12/27/2025 THRU 1/10/2026

HORSE DISQUALIFIED, PURSE

REDISTRIBUTION

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Frank Multari was the programmed trainer of the horse "IN SECRET" when he raced in the eighth race at The Meadowlands Racetrack on November 6, 2025. Following the race, "IN SECRET" was required to submit blood for analysis. A report from Industrial Laboratories identified the presence of Dexamethasone above the allowable limit. As a result, Mr. Multari is hereby issued a full suspension of his New Jersey Racing Commission license for a period of fifteen (15) days and is fined the sum of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. Said suspension shall begin on December 27, 2025 and run through January 10, 2026 inclusive. During the period of suspension, Mr. Multari is denied access to all grounds that are under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Racing Commission. Mr. Multari has waived his right to a hearing with the Board of Judges and has accepted the penalties associated with this ruling. Consistent with N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 the horse "IN SECRET" is disqualified from sharing in all purse monies earned on November 6, 2025. The fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before January 10, 2026. MMV Points incurred 1/2 point. Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-1.19 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.1 (a) (b) 14 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.6 (a) (b) (c) (d) Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 (a) (b) (c) (d)

M on 11/13/2025

FINED: \$750

FULL - 20 DAYS, 1/11/2026 THRU 1/30/2026

HORSE DISQUALIFIED, PURSE

REDISTRIBUTION

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Frank Multari was the programmed trainer of the horse "CC BANK" when he raced in the tenth race at The Meadowlands Racetrack on November 13, 2025. Following the race, "CC BANK" was required to submit blood for analysis. A report from Industrial Laboratories identified the presence of Dexamethasone above the allowable limit. As a result, Mr. Multari is hereby issued a full suspension of his New Jersey Racing Commission license for a period of twenty (20) days and is fined the sum of seven hundred fifty (\$750.00) dollars. Said suspension shall begin on January 11, 2026 and run through January 30, 2026 inclusive. During the period of suspension, Mr. Multari is denied access to all grounds that

are under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Racing Commission. Mr. Multari has waived his right to a hearing with the Board of Judges and has accepted the penalties associated with this ruling. Consistent with N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 the horse "CC BANK" is disqualified from sharing in all purse monies earned on November 13, 2025. The fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before January 30, 2026. MMV Points incurred 1/2 point Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-1.19 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.1 (a) (b) 14 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.6 (a) (b) (c) (d) Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 (a) (b) (c) (d)

M on 11/20/2025

FINED: \$1,500

FULL - 30 DAYS, 1/31/2026 THRU 3/1/2026

HORSE DISQUALIFIED, PURSE

REDISTRIBUTION

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Frank Multari was the programmed trainer of the horse "CC BANK" when he raced in the second race at The Meadowlands Racetrack on November 20, 2025. Following the race, "CC BANK" was required to submit blood for analysis. A report from Industrial Laboratories identified the presence of Dexamethasone above the allowable limit. As a result, Mr. Multari is hereby issued a full suspension of his New Jersey Racing Commission license for a period of thirty (30) days and is fined the sum of one thousand five hundred (\$1,500.00) dollars. Said suspension shall begin on January 31, 2026 and run through March 1, 2026 inclusive. During the period of suspension, Mr. Multari is denied access to all grounds that are under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Racing Commission. Mr. Multari has waived his right to a hearing with the Board of Judges and has accepted the penalties associated with this ruling. Consistent with N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 the horse "CC BANK" is disqualified from sharing in all purse monies earned on November 20, 2025. The fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before March 1, 2026. MMV Points incurred 1/2 point Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-1.19 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.1 (a) (b) 14 Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.6 (a) (b) (c) (d) Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 (a) (b) (c) (d)

ROSS, JORDAN M

COVINGTON, TN

YOB 1997

MVR on 1/8/2026

FINED: \$100

LATE FOR THE BREATH ANALYZER TEST

OSRC 3769-17-29-A(1),3769-14-22. Mr. Ross was late for the breath analyzer test prior to starting his driving activities on 1/8/26 at MVR. Mr. Ross is fined \$200, the penalty will be reduced to \$100 if not appealed, which is due within 10 days of this ruling. Mr. Ross has 48 hours to appeal this decision to the OSRC.

SUMNER, ROBERT W

WINDSOR LOCKS, CT

YOB 1961

Tops on 1/5/2026

INDEFINITE SUSPENSION(IND) AS OF 12/5/2026

UNPAID OBLIGATION

Mr. Sumner failed to return purse winnings in the amount of \$1,104.00 to the Topsham Fair for redistribution. Mr. Sumner's license to participate in harness racing has been indefinitely suspended until this obligation has been met.

PART THREE - WHIPPING VIOLATIONS

ASHER-STALBAUM, WINTER S MR on 12/31/2025	LESLIE, MI FINED: \$250 DRIVING - 3 DAYS, 1/5/2026 THRU 1/7/2026	YOB 2003
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EXCESSIVE OR INDISCRIMINATE USE OF WHIP

Rule 4117.8(D)(2) & 4117.8(H)(2). Driver Winter Asher-Stalbaum is hereby assessed a fine of \$250.00 and suspended from driving for 3 days for using the whip more than three times in succession without giving the horse time to respond while driving ITSONLYROCKNROLL A, in the 6th race on December 31, 2025, at Monticello Raceway. (This violation constitutes a 2nd violation in this category in a 365-day period.) Further violations in this category will result in increased penalties.

CASSAR, DARRAN F M on 12/12/2025	COLUMBUS, NJ FINED: \$500 DRIVING - 5 DAYS, 12/18/2025 THRU 12/27/2025	YOB 1977
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EXCESSIVE OR INDISCRIMINATE USE OF WHIP

Driver Darran Cassar is hereby issued a driving suspension for a period of five (5) days and is also fined the sum of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. Said suspension shall be served on five (5) consecutive New Jersey race days and will be served on December 18, 2025, December 19, 2025, December 20, 2025, December 26, 2025, and December 27, 2025. While driving #5, HUNGRYHUNGRY HIPPO, in the 1st race at the Meadowlands Racetrack on December 12, 2025, Mr. Cassar, during the stretch drive, used the whip more than three times in succession without giving the horse time to respond. That is a direct violation of the New Jersey Racing Commission rule regarding the restrictive use of the whip. Mr. Cassar has waived his right to a hearing with the Board of Judges and has accepted the penalties associated with this ruling. The payment of the fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before December 27, 2025. Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-20.15 (b) 2.

DAVIS, ALLAN W DD on 1/6/2026	SMYRNA, DE FINED: \$200	YOB 1976
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INAPPROPRIATE USE OF THE WHIP

Mr. Davis was the driver of #3 Caliber in the 5th race. Mr. Davis did take the whip above the shoulder and behind the head. Per rule 7.6.13.14.2.7, Mr. Davis was issued a \$200 fine, he did sign the waiver of hearing. The fine is paid.

SAMPLE, DESHAWN O DD on 1/7/2026	LINCOLN, DE DRIVING - 3 DAYS, 1/12/2026 THRU 1/14/2026	YOB 1978
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INAPPROPRIATE USE OF THE WHIP

TORRO, KEITH D M on 12/18/2025	FREEHOLD, NJ FINED: \$500 DRIVING - 5 DAYS, 12/26/2025 THRU 1/9/2026	YOB 1955
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EXCESSIVE OR INDISCRIMINATE USE OF WHIP

Driver Keith Torro is hereby issued a driving suspension for a period of five (5) days and is also fined the sum of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. Said suspension shall be served on five (5) consecutive New Jersey race days and will be served on December 26, 2025, December 27, 2025, January 2, 2026, January 3, 2026, and January 9, 2026. While driving #4, "SOMETIMESAWINNER," in the 12th race at the Meadowlands Racetrack on December 18, 2025, Mr. Torro, during the stretch drive, failed to keep a line in each hand, used significantly more than wrist action only and moved his whipping arm in an exaggerated manner while applying the whip. Those actions are a direct violation of the New Jersey Racing Commission rule regarding the restrictive use of the whip. Mr. Torro has waived his right to a hearing with the Board of Judges and has accepted the penalties associated with this ruling. The payment of the fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before January 9, 2026. Violation of N.J.A.C. 13:71-20.15 (c) 1, 2, 3, 4.

PART FOUR - MINOR PENALTIES

ANGUS, TYLER C Nfld on 12/30/2025 INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION	SAGAMORE HILLS, OH FINED: \$100	YOB 2002
BEATTIE, JASON R MVR on 1/7/2026 FAILURE TO DRIVE WHEN PROGRAMMED	OREGONIA, OH FINED: \$100	YOB 1972
BECKWITH, BRETT M M on 12/12/2025 FAILURE TO DRIVE WHEN PROGRAMMED M on 12/20/2025 CHANGING COURSE/CAUSING INTERFERENCE	WILTON, NY FINED: \$200 FAILURE TO DRIVE WHEN PROGRAMMED M on 12/20/2025 CHANGING COURSE/CAUSING INTERFERENCE	YOB 2003
BONTRAGER, DARYL J Nfld on 1/4/2026 INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION	GOSHEN, IN FINED: \$100	YOB 1988
CIOCCA, JOHN JR. Nfld on 1/3/2026 FAILURE TO KEEP BOTH FEET IN THE STIRRUPS	NORTHFIELD, OH FINED: \$100	YOB 1993
HERNANDEZ, GEOVANY M on 12/12/2025 JOSTLE, STRIKE OR HOOK WHEELS	WRIGHTSTOWN, NJ FINED: \$300	YOB 1991
LEMS, CHRISTOPHER E	STOW, OH	YOB 1986

Nfld on 1/4/2026	FINED: \$100	
TALKING ON THE RACE TRACK		
MACDONALD, ANTHONY A		YOB 1976
Nfld on 1/4/2026		
TALKING ON THE RACE TRACK		
MAPES, JOEY DEAN		YOB 1983
Nfld on 1/3/2026		
FAILURE TO KEEP BOTH FEET IN THE STIRRUPS		
MERRIMAN, AARON E		YOB 1978
Nfld on 12/30/2025		
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION		
MILLER, DUANE A		YOB 1970
Nfld on 1/4/2026		
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION		
MILLER, TYLER J		YOB 1998
PHL on 12/31/2025		
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION		
SUTTON, JOSHUA		YOB 1982
MVR on 1/7/2026		
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION		
WARREN, RIDGE J		YOB 1988
M on 12/27/2025		
CHANGING COURSE/CAUSING INTERFERENCE		