



ILLINOIS RACING BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Illinois Racing Board Approves 2027 Race Dates

Chicago, IL – On Wednesday September 16, 2026, the Illinois Racing Board met to consider applications for 2027 racing dates. The Board received two Thoroughbred applications from Fairmount Park and Hawthorne Race Course, Inc and an application for a Standardbred meet from Suburban Downs, Inc. All applications were reviewed pursuant to Section 21(a) of the Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975, and the applicants were advised of the deficiencies in their applications. After reviewing the responses to the deficiencies, the Illinois Racing Board determined that the applications submitted by Hawthorne Race Course, Inc. and Suburban Downs, Inc. remained deficient and did not comply with the Act or the rules and regulations prescribed by the Board. As such, the applications were rejected. The Board reviewed the application from Fairmount Park, Inc. and found it to be in compliance with the Act and the rules and regulations prescribed by the Board. Fairmount presented their application to the Board at today's hearing.

With a 6-0 vote the Board approved the following race dates for 2027:

FAIRMOUNT PARK, INC.- 73 live thoroughbred race programs with 7 races per day minimum.

- April 6th through November 23rd- Racing 2 days per week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well as the first Saturday of every month May 1st through November 6th, with post times of 1:30 PM.

"This year the Illinois Racing Board received three applications for 2027 race dates. All applications were reviewed in compliance with Section 21(a) of the Illinois Horse Racing Act, and the Board rejected the applications from Hawthorne Race Course and Suburban Downs due to irreparable deficiencies in their applications." said Executive Director, Domenic DiCera. "Although Illinois racing is facing a difficult landscape with the closing of Hawthorne, I am optimistic heading into 2027. The Board today approved a race schedule at Fairmount Park that increases racing by 16 days over 2026. I want to thank everyone involved for working to ensure that the Illinois Horsemen have opportunities to continue racing and I look forward to working together to rejuvenate Illinois Racing in the future."

For more information, please visit www.illinois.gov/IRB or contact Bob Denneen (312) 814-5017.

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