FINES AND SUSPENSIONS BULLETIN

Fri, Oct 23 - Thu, Oct 29

PART ONE

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

AUSTIN, J C — **WINNER, SD** — **YOB 2000**

USTA on 10/27/2026

INDEFINITE SUSPENSION(IND) AS OF 10/27/2026

USTA MEMBERSHIP ACTION

Indefinite suspension for violation of Rule 20, Section 10 (financial responsibility).

BLANTON, CHRIS J — **CROWLEY, TX** — **YOB 1996**

USTA on 10/23/2026

INDEFINITE SUSPENSION(IND) AS OF 10/23/2026

USTA MEMBERSHIP ACTION

Membership suspended pursuant to USTA Rule 22.08, in reciprocity with the Indiana Horse Racing Commission ruling dated October 14, 2026, which suspended Chris Blanton's Indiana owner's license effective October 14, 2026, pending the outcome of a criminal trial.

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.

AUSTIN, MICHAEL DALE — **PINE BUSH, NY** — **YOB 1964**

M on 6/26/2026

FINED: $5,000
FULL - 365 DAYS, 11/1/2026 THRU 10/31/2027
HORSE DISQUALIFIED, PURSE REDISTRIBUTION

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Michael Austin was the programmed trainer of the horse "FREDS FINALE" when he raced in the sixth race at the Meadowlands Racetrack on June 26, 2026. Following the race, "FREDS FINALE" was required to submit blood and urine for analysis. A report from Industrial Laboratories identified the presence of Oxymorphone in the urine. Mr. Austin was offered the opportunity to have the split sample tested at an independent laboratory and declined. The presence of Oxymorphone in a horse racing at the Meadowlands is in direct violation of the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Racing Commission. Mr. Austin appeared at a hearing before the Board of Judges at the Meadowlands Racetrack on September 14, 2026. As a result, Mr. Austin is hereby issued a full suspension of his New Jersey Racing Commission license for a period of three hundred sixty-five days (365) and is fined the sum of five thousand ($5,000.00) dollars. Said suspension shall begin on November 1, 2026 and run through October 31, 2027 inclusive. During the period of suspension, Mr. Austin is denied access to all grounds that are under the jurisdiction of the

New Jersey Racing Commission. Consistent with N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.7 the horse "FREDS FINALE" is disqualified from sharing in all purse monies earned on June 26, 2026. The fine associated with this ruling must be received by the New Jersey Racing Commission on or before October 31, 2027. MMV Points incurred 6 points 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)

BEATTIE, JASON R **OREGONIA, OH** **YOB 1972**

DTN on 10/27/2026 FINED: $100

LATE FOR THE BREATH ANALYZER TEST

OSRC 3769-17-29-A(1). Mr. Beattie was late for the breath analyzer test prior to driving #1 Go Miki Go in race 2 on 10/27/26 at Dayton Raceway. Mr. Beattie is fined $200, the penalty will be reduced to $100 if not appealed, which is due within 10 days of this ruling. Mr. Beattie has 48 hours to appeal this decision to the OSRC.

BLANTON, CHRIS J **CROWLEY, TX** **YOB 1996**

HoP on 10/14/2026 FULL - INDEFINITELY AS OF 10/14/2026

FALSIFICATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION

71 IAC 5-1-14(b)(7),(18) On February 17, 2026 licensee Chris Blanton applied for a 2026 Indiana Owner License with the Indiana Horse Racing Commission. On his application Mr. Blanton answered "no" to the question "are there any indictments, complaints, or criminal charges currently pending anywhere against you or your spouse?" A criminal background check showed that Mr. Blanton was charged with criminal offenses in Texas in August 2025. Mr. Blanton was given a phone hearing before the judges on October 14, 2026 where he acknowledged that he failed to list the arrests. Due to the seriousness of the charges that Mr. Blanton is facing, his 2026 IHRC is suspended beginning October 14, 2026 and he will remain suspended pending the outcome of his trial.

BROWER, BURLIN W **KEVIL, KY** **YOB 1971**

CBRN on 4/7/2026 FINED: $10,000

FULL - 379 DAYS, 11/11/2026 THRU 11/24/2027

CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST INTEREST OF HORSE RACING

After appearing before the Board of Judges on 10/19/2026 and hearing all testimony under oath and reviewing all evidence, the Board of Judges do find that Mr. Burlin Brower did violate the following rules and regulations. 1. (810 KAR 3:020 Section 15 – 1 – M) – Mr. Brower failed to disclose to the corporation complete ownership or beneficial interest in a horse entered to be raced in the Commonwealth of Kentucky while a horse was owned by an inactive person. 2. (810 KAR 3:020 Section 15 – 1 – Q) – Mr. Brower engaged in conduct that is against the best interest of horse racing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by allowing an inactive person to care for and pay bills for horses racing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. 3. (810 KAR 3:020 Section 15 – 1 – HH) – Mr. Brower knowingly aided and abetted an inactive person in violation of KRS Chapter 230, KAR Title 810, and other statutes and administrative regulations pertaining to horse racing by allowing an inactive person to have financial gain from horses racing in the Commonwealth

of Kentucky. 4. (810 KAR 8:030 Section 7 – 3 – C) – Mr. Brower did give remuneration and other compensation to an inactive person that was otherwise unable to participate in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Board of Judges hereby issue Mr. Brower the following penalties; Ten Thousand ($10,000) Dollar Fine and a Full Suspension of Three Hundred Seventy-Nine (379) Days from 11/11/2026 through 11/24/2027. Mr. Brower is denied all privileges and access to all association grounds under the jurisdiction of the Kentucky Horse Racing & Gaming Corporation during this period of suspension. All horses owned and/or trained by Mr. Brower are not permitted to be transferred without the prior approval of the Board of Judges of the KHRG.

BUSH, STEVEN B **BRIDGEVILLE, PA** **YOB 1967**

Mea on 8/5/2026

FINED: $750
HORSE DISQUALIFIED - PLACED 9, PURSE REDISTRIBUTION

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

PA Code Title 7: 203.22(a) 203.22(b) 401.2(a)(1) 401.2(a)(3)(ii) 401.3(a) 401.3(b) 401.45 401.41(e)(10) Mr. Bush was the trainer of the horse EDINBURGH HANOVER that raced in The Meadows` fourth race on August 5, 2026. Blood samples drawn (post-race) from EDINBURGH HANOVER were tested and found to contain the therapeutic drug Flunixin at a level above the allowable level set by the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission. As the trainer, Mr. Bush is responsible for this positive test. Mr. Bush is fined $750 (fine has been paid). EDINBURGH HANOVER finished first and is now disqualified. Purse money earned by EDINBURGH HANOVER must be returned within ten days of this ruling. Mitigating factors were considered in determining this penalty. Mr. Bush has waived his hearing/appeal rights.

CRUSE, BRANDON **MILFORD, DE** **YOB 1994**

PHL on 10/20/2026

FULL - INDEFINITELY AS OF 10/20/2026
INDEFINITE SUSPENSION(IND) AS OF 10/20/2026

FAILURE TO PAY FINE(S)

PA Code Title 7-179.22 179.38(c) 205.502 Brandon Cruse is issued an indefinite full suspension (starting 10/20/26) for failure to pay fines from rulings 26051CD($300) and 26070CD($500). Mr. Cruse shall remain under a full suspension until this fine is paid in full. Appeals are due within ten days of this ruling and must be submitted in writing (accompanied by a $750 bond) to: PSHRC, Bureau of Standardbred Racing. The address is 2301 N. Cameron St. Harrisburg, PA. 17110

GRIFFITH, SHANE M **HOUSTON, DE** **YOB 2006**

DD on 10/20/2026

FULL - INDEFINITELY AS OF 10/26/2026

CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST INTEREST OF HORSE RACING

Per DHRC rule 3.2.3 Disciplinary Actions and 3.2.3.1 alleged misconduct, Cruelty to a horse. Shane Griffith is indefinitely suspended until the investigation is completed. Shane Griffith did appeal the DHRC Judges ruling. A hearing was held in the judges office at

Ballys Dover Downs on Oct 26 at 12;00 pm. On Oct 21, 2026 the judges were informed by DHRC investigator Handley Orr of written statements from witness's describing what they had seen Shane Griffith do to a young horse at Dovington training center located in Felton, De. The judges immediately prepared a notice of hearing to be presented to Shane Griffith, the notice of hearing was placed with the paddock judge at Harrington Raceway at 4pm on Oct 21, 2026. The last day of racing of the Harrington meet. Shane Griffith was scheduled to drive in the 4th race this day. Someone informed Shane Griffith that he was taken off the drive and was being summarily suspended. Shane Griffith did not arrive to the paddock on Oct 21, 2026.Efforts to contact Shane Griffith that evening were not successful. On Oct 22 , 2026 Shene Griffith called Judge Corey at his home at 8;20 am. Judge Corey informed Shane Griffith of the charges and that a hearing was set for Oct26, 2026 at 12;00 pm in the judges office at Dover Downs, this was the earliest date and time the judges could hold the hearing due to the judges office being moved from Harrington Raceway to Ballys Dover Downs, to be ready for the start of the Ballys Dover Downs meet. This is an ongoing investigation. Shane Griffith was suspended indefinitely based on the evidence that was presented. The DHRC board of judges, aided by DHRC investigator Handley Orr, were convinced that it is in the best interest of racing and for the protection of the well being of the horses that Shane Griffith could come in contact with. DHRC rules 2.1 , 2.1.2 , 5.1.27.7, 5.1.16, 5.1.16.1

HERSHBERGER, LEVI E **NORTH LAWERENCE, OH** **YOB 1985**

Nfld on 9/12/2026

FINED: $500
HORSE DISQUALIFIED - PLACED 9, PURSE REDISTRIBUTION

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Blood sample #942812 collected at Northfield Park on 9/12/26 from the horse Sumbadgirl was found to contain Dexamethasone at a concentration of 14+/-1 picograms per milliliter of plasma. This exceeds the Regulatory Threshold of 5 picograms per milliliter of plasma adopted by the OSRC. Mr. Hershberger waived his rights to a split sample, DNA, and a hearing. This is Mr. Hershberger`s first medication violation in the last 365 days. Mr. Hershberger is hereby fined $1,000 and return of purse ($4,600) if not appealed the penalty will be reduced to a $500 fine and return of purse. O.S.R.C.-3769-18-01(A)(1,10,13,15,16)3769-18-02 3769-17-43. The fine and purse must be paid by 11/1/26.

JOHNSON, BRENDAN **GEORGETOWN, KY** **YOB 1965**

CBRN on 10/19/2026

FINED: $500

CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST INTEREST OF HORSE RACING

After appearing before the Board of Judges on 10/24/2026 in the Judges Office at Cumberland Run at Corbin, the Board of Judges find that on 10/19/2026 Mr. Brendan Johnson did permit and allow an underage family member to be actively working with horses in the paddock while on association grounds at Cumberland Run, violating 810 KAR 3:020 Section 15 – 1 – HH & 810 KAR 3:020 Section 15 – 1 – II, while using a license badge of another family member. This action is deemed detrimental conduct to the best interest of racing, violating 810 KAR 3:020 Section 15 – 1 – Q. Due to aggravating

circumstances regarding prior rulings concerning the same issues, Mr. Johnson has been issued a Five Hundred ($500) Dollar Fine and a Thirty (30) Day Full Suspension, that will be held in abeyance if no further violations occur in the next 365 days.

KNITTEL, WAYNE E — **BAKERSFIELD, CA** — **YOB 1942**

PcD on 5/5/2026

RESTORED TO GOOD STANDING(RES) AS OF 10/20/2026

FAILURE TO OBTAIN PROPER LICENSE

Fined: $50, Action(s) against license: Indefinite suspension(IND) as of 9/4/2026 PA Title 7-203.11(e) Wayne Knittel has failed to complete licensing requirements in PA for 2026. PROOF raced on 5/5/2026 at Pocono Downs under a 30 day owner affidavit. Mr. Knittel was fined $50 and is suspended indefinitely beginning 9/4/2026 and will remain suspended until the fine is paid and all licensing requirements have been met.

Status as of 10/20/2026 - Subsequent Ruling - Wayne Knittel has paid the fine from ruling #26152PD and completed all licensing requirements in PA. Mr. Knittel, as of 10/20/2026, has been restored to good standing in PA

MAXWELL, PRAVI — **MACON, MS** — **YOB 1977**

Lex on 9/15/2026

FINED: $1,000
HORSE DISQUALIFIED - PLACED 10, PURSE REDISTRIBUTION

POSITIVE TEST- POST RACE

Mr. Pravi Maxwell was the listed trainer of #2 Miss Sunshine Lady who was in the 13th race at The Red Mile on 9/15/2026. Post race testing of sample #E706009 that was sent to Industrial Laboratories confirmed Dexamethasone in the blood, which is a violation of 810 KAR 8:025. Mr. Maxwell failed to respond to the Report Of Positive Medication Violation form that was sent to him on 10/6/2026 with a due date of end of business on 10/9/2026, hence waving his right to a split sample for not answering in a timely manner. After appearing before the Board of Judges of the KHRG by phone on 10/25/2026, Mr. Maxwell is hereby issued a Fine of One Thousand ($1000) Dollars, and #2 Miss Sunshine Lady is hereby disqualified and is placed 10th, and the purse of Three Thousand One Hundred ($3,100) Dollars is ordered to be returned and redistributed.

ROBERTS, RONNIE B — **DALEVILLE, IN** — **YOB 1951**

HoP on 8/7/2026

FINED: $500
FULL - 15 DAYS, 10/24/2026 THRU 11/7/2026
HORSE DISQUALIFIED - PLACED 10, PURSE REDISTRIBUTION

LOW OR EXCESS LEVEL OF AUTHORIZED MEDICATION

ZANDER, STEPHEN E — **DELAWARE, OH** — **YOB 1968**

PRc on 9/1/2026

RESTORED TO GOOD STANDING(RES) AS OF 10/23/2026

OTHER

Mass 205 CMR 3.14 (4)(5). On 06/04/2026, Stephen Zander applied for a 2026 Grooms License with the Massachusetts State Gaming Commission/Racing Division at Plainridge Park Racecourse. Subsequently the application was reviewed by both the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Mass Racing Division and the Board of Judges at Plainridge Park. After a full review of his application, it has been determined that the applicant, Stephen Zander does not meet the standards for licensure In Massachusetts and hereby his License has been revoked. This action can be appealed online with the Massachusetts Gaming Commission within 10 days of this ruling.
Status as of 10/23/2026 - Subsequent Ruling - Mass Initial Ruling 055-26, 09/03/2026. Having fulfilled his license obligations, grooms License No.31872 of Stephen Zander has been restored to good standing.

PART THREE - WHIPPING VIOLATIONS

BIER, SEAN **DOVER, DE** **YOB 1975**
RcR on 10/22/2026 FINED: $100
EXCESSIVE OR INDISCRIMINATE USE OF WHIP
Driver Sean Bier is hereby assessed a fine of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) for one-handed whipping in the stretch while driving HEKNOWSALLTHETRIX in the second race on October 22, 2026, at Rosecroft Raceway, in violation of COMAR 09.10.02.33H(17). The fine assessed must be paid within ten (10) days of the issuance of this ruling. Failure to submit payment within this period shall result in the full suspension of the Maryland Racing Commission licensee and will remain in effect until full payment is received.

DE LONG, JOHN J **ANDERSON, IN** **YOB 1989**
HoP on 10/23/2026 FINED: $300
INAPPROPRIATE USE OF THE WHIP
71 IAC 7-3-13(b) While driving WHAT NOOO WAAAY in race 13 at Hoosier Park on October 23, 2026 driver John DeLong violated the IHRC whipping rule by using more than minimal wrist and elbow action in the stretch nearing the finish. For this violation Mr. DeLong is fined $300.00 which is due within seven days of this ruling. Mr. DeLong waived his right to a hearing and accepted the penalty.

PART FOUR - MINOR PENALTIES

ANGUS, TYLER C **SAGAMORE HILLS, OH** **YOB 2002**
Nfld on 10/21/2026 FINED: $100
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION

BAKO, JARED W **WALLKILL, NY** **YOB 1993**
YR on 10/5/2026 FINED: $100
LATE DRIVER CHANGE

BURKE, RONALD J — **CANONSBURG, PA** — **YOB 1969**
DTN on 10/29/2026 — FINED: $100
INACCURATE PROGRAM INFORMATION

BUTER, TYLER L — **MILFORD, PA** — **YOB 1985**
YR on 10/6/2026 — FINED: $0
DRIVING - 3 DAYS, 10/30/2026 THRU 11/1/2026
HORSE PLACED 3
CHANGING COURSE/CAUSING INTERFERENCE

CARGO, JAMES W — **MORROW, OH** — **YOB 1953**
Nfld on 10/18/2026 — FINED: $100
LATE DRIVER CHANGE

CONNOR, JANICE — **GLENS FALLS, NY** — **YOB 1953**
PRc on 10/29/2026 — FINED: $100
LATE DRIVER CHANGE

CROSS, JAY D — **MIDDLEBURY, IN** — **YOB 1955**
HoP on 10/15/2026 — FINED: $100
COMING TO THE GATE OUT OF POSITION

DENSON, JAMAAL D — **MADISON, MS** — **YOB 1996**
CBRN on 10/25/2026 — FINED: $500
FAILURE TO OBEY THE INSTRUCTIONS OF A RACING OFFICIAL

DOBSON, BILLY ARTHUR — **FORT EDWARD, NY** — **YOB 1984**
Stga on 10/26/2026 — FINED: $100
HORSE PLACED 5
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION

DUNN, DEXTER J — **WRIGHTSTOWN, NJ** — **YOB 1989**
ScD on 10/23/2026 — FINED: $100
FAILURE TO OBEY THE INSTRUCTION OF THE PADDOCK JUDGE
ScD on 10/23/2026 — FINED: $200
HORSE PLACED 2
IMPEDING THE PROGRESS OF ANOTHER HORSE

EBERSOLE, LOGAN C — **CHESTERVILLE, OH** — **YOB 1996**
Nfld on 10/21/2026 — FINED: $100
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION

FARMER, WYATT M — **TOLEDO, OH** — **YOB 2005**
Nfld on 10/25/2026 — FINED: $100

INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION

HARMON, KRISTA J — **JACKSON, MI** — **YOB 1972**
Nfld on 10/20/2026 — FINED: $100
INACCURATE PROGRAM INFORMATION

HUSTED, KYLE A — **ANDERSON, IN** — **YOB 1991**
HoP on 10/14/2026 — FINED: $200
FAILURE TO DRIVE WHEN PROGRAMMED

KAKALEY, MATTHEW DON — **MOUNTAIN TOP, PA** — **YOB 1988**
YR on 9/29/2026 — FINED: $100
FAILURE TO DRIVE WHEN PROGRAMMED

KEIM, COTE J — **WRIGHTSTOWN, NJ** — **YOB 1982**
YR on 10/1/2026 — FINED: $250
FAILURE TO HONOR DECLARATION

KIRKER, NATHAN — **RAYNHAM, MA** — **YOB 1994**
PRc on 10/26/2026
FAILURE TO OBEY THE INSTRUCTIONS OF A RACING OFFICIAL

MAROHN, JAMES JR — **PARK RIDGE, NJ** — **YOB 1982**
PHL on 10/25/2026 — FINED: $100
FAILURE TO SET AND MAINTAIN A PROPER PACE

MAXWELL, ZYLER M — **MACON, MS** — **YOB 2006**
CBRN on 10/25/2026 — FINED: $500
FAILURE TO OBEY THE INSTRUCTIONS OF A RACING OFFICIAL

MELLOY, PATRICK M JR — **EATON, OH** — **YOB 1967**
HoP on 10/22/2026 — FINED: $100
LATE DRIVER CHANGE

MERRIMAN, AARON E — **NORTHFIELD, OH** — **YOB 1978**
Nfld on 10/20/2026 — FINED: $100
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION

MILLER, DAVID S — **WILMINGTON, OH** — **YOB 1964**
ScD on 10/23/2026 — FINED: $100
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION

MILLER, JORDON C — **BURGETTSTOWN, PA** — **YOB 1989**
Nfld on 10/25/2026 — FINED: $300
FAILURE TO HONOR DECLARATION

MILLER, LEWAYNE L — **DALEVILLE, IN** — **YOB 1986**
HoP on 10/15/2026 — FINED: $200
LATE TO THE PADDOCK

PAGE, CHRIS L — **DELAWARE, OH** — **YOB 1983**
ScD on 10/23/2026 — FINED: $200
FAILURE TO KEEP BOTH FEET IN THE STIRRUPS

SCHWARTZ, MERVIN E — **BLUFFTON, IN** — **YOB 1995**
HoP on 10/8/2026 — FINED: $200
FAILURE TO HONOR DECLARATION

SUGG, KURT D — **POLK, OH** — **YOB 1969**
Nfld on 10/25/2026 — FINED: $100
JOSTLE, STRIKE OR HOOK WHEELS

SWIFT, KYLE — **MALTA, NY** — **YOB 2005**
Stga on 10/26/2026 — FINED: $100
HORSE PLACED 8
INSIDE THE EURO RAIL / PYLON VIOLATION

TIRELLA, CARL — **PAWLING, NY** — **YOB 1954**
PcD on 10/5/2026 — FINED: $100
NO VACCINATION / COGGINS / HEALTH CERTIFICATE

WRENN, MELANIE — **CARMEL, IN** — **YOB 1965**
ScD on 10/24/2026 — FINED: $100
LATE DRIVER CHANGE

YOUNG, DAVID A II — **CHILLICOTHE, OH** — **YOB 1983**
Nfld on 10/25/2026 — FINED: $100
LATE DRIVER CHANGE