



Photo: Ericka Rusnak

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Race Line is the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)'s publication for Ontario's horse racing industry. Printed copies are available at open racetracks and industry associations. All issues may be viewed online in both official languages at www.agco.ca.

We welcome your ideas and input. If there are topics you would like to see addressed in future publications, or if you wish to receive *Race Line* and other AGCO horse racing-related communications electronically, please email Racing@agco.ca or call 416-325-0427.

From the Registrar



As a new season of racing begins, it is no secret that the horse racing industry is facing many challenges.

The AGCO remains committed to continuing the on-going work of reviewing our policies, rules and regulations in support of the sustainability of this important sport.

This issue of *Race Line* explains in detail our recent package of reforms, designed to promote the increased safety of industry participants, the welfare of our horses, and the integrity of the sport in general.

Change is not always easy, nor is it often comfortable, but it is a necessary reality. As we move towards a more modern approach to horse racing regulation, including electronic rule books and online licensing services, the AGCO will continue to consult, listen and be supportive of all of our horse racing licensees at all employment levels and across all three breeds.

Working together will help the Ontario horse racing community strengthen.

I wish all industry participants a safe and successful 2019 meet.

Jean Major
Registrar

Change of Address Reminder

Both the *Horse Racing Licence Act*, 2015 and the AGCO's *Rules of Racing* mandate that licensees promptly notify the AGCO if there is a change in their address. As the AGCO continues development of its online services for the horse racing sector, it is especially important that all licensees' contact information is up-to-date.

If you have moved since your licence was issued or there has been any change to your contact information, please contact us to update your file:

AGCO Customer Service

Monday to Friday | 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

Telephone: **416-326-8700** or toll free in Ontario: **1-800-522-2876**

Enhancing Welfare and Integrity in Horse Racing

The AGCO is committed to being a modern regulator by ensuring the highest standards of equine and human health and safety, and accountability across the industry. Continuous assessment of the *Rules of Racing* as they relate to equine drugs and welfare allows the AGCO to uphold the integrity of the sport and to ensure the utmost protection of horses, jockeys, and drivers.

In April 2019, the AGCO implemented four new initiatives intended to safeguard the well-being of both horses and participants, which research has shown are inherently linked. These were:

1.

Race Day Medication Ban | Effective April 19, 2019
Evidence has shown that it is in the best interest of the horse, the human participants, the betting public and the public at large that horses race free of medications. To that end, a ban on race day medications, starting 24 hours prior to the post time of the first race of the day they are scheduled to race, prohibits the administration of medications, drugs and substances to any horse entered to race. This ban does not include Furosemide when properly enrolled in the Ontario Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage (E.I.P.H.) Program.
Information Bulletin No. 70 – Ban on Race Day Medication: Introduction of a Standards-Based Rule
2.

Revised Claiming Rules | Effective April 20, 2019
The AGCO expanded the rules to permit its Race Officials to invalidate claims in instances where a horse dies during the course of a claiming race or where a horse requires euthanasia on the racetrack following a claiming race. Enacting rules to invalidate claims in these tragic instances is intended to contribute to the enhanced health and safety of race horses and participants, as well as the integrity of racing.
Information Bulletin No. 69 – Revisions to Claiming Provisions

3.

Introduction of a Concussion Protocol | Effective April 20, 2019
The AGCO began piloting the implementation of a Concussion Protocol at Thoroughbred racetracks in Ontario. The intention of this protocol is to ensure jockeys do not engage in racing while diagnosed by a Qualified Medical Professional as having a concussion. Ensuring jockeys are not participating in races while suffering from the effects of concussions will enhance their personal health and safety, as well as the health and safety of other jockeys and race horses.
Information Bulletin No. 68 – Concussion Protocol Pilot: Introduction of a Standards-Based Rule
4.

Amended Standardbred Urging Rules | Effective June 3, 2019
The AGCO amended the Standardbred Rules of Racing and Policy Directive No. 5-2009, limiting urging in Standardbred racing to acceptable “wrist action” only. In addition a new section has been added to the penalty guidelines, mandating a minimum fine for any violation that takes place in a race where the purse is \$100,000 or more and providing direction for recommended terms for driving suspensions in relation to the total race purse. The rule change became effective at Woodbine Mohawk Park on June 3, 2019 and will be gradually phased in across all Standardbred racetracks in Ontario.
Information Bulletin No. 71 – Amendment to Standardbred Urging Rules

The AGCO continues to explore initiatives that will help ensure the highest standards of equine and human health and safety, and accountability across the Ontario horse racing industry.

More information on the AGCO’s participant welfare and horse racing integrity initiatives as well as the Information Bulletins mentioned above, may be found on the AGCO website.

DID YOU KNOW?

AGCO Race Reports

In keeping with its commitment to increasing transparency in racing, the AGCO publishes Race Reports for all breeds following each card of racing, in both English and French.

Between April 21, 2018 and March 31, 2019, over 800 Race Reports have been published (English and French)

The reports are available at: <https://www.agco.ca/content/race-reports>.

Positive Test Data Review

APRIL 21, 2018 - APRIL 21, 2019

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	TCO ₂
0	2	7	6	5	3

Positive test data is posted on the AGCO website at:
<https://www.agco.ca/content/equine-positive-test-data>



Photo: Dave Landry

Online Inquiries and Complaints



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Commission of Ontario

The AGCO reviews all inquiries and complaints submitted through its online portal, iAGCO. Users have the option of submitting questions and concerns anonymously, or may provide their contact information for follow-up.
iAGCO can be accessed at www.agco.ca/iagco or by clicking the link at the top of the AGCO website homepage.

Equine Guelph Delivers First Round of Online Training to Racing Industry

The first wave of AGCO licensees have joined the new online learning community developed for the AGCO by Equine Guelph as part of the free Online Training Pilot Project.

This past winter, trainers, grooms and owners from the Thoroughbred, Standardbred and Quarter Horse sectors participated in the first three free online short course offerings, which included the Gut Health & Colic Prevention course.

“This course should be mandatory for anyone who owns or takes care of a horse, especially grooms in the racing industry,” says participant Jeff Hunt, a groom from Classy Lane Stables in Puslinch, Ontario. “I became a better groom for taking it and I have no doubt you will as well.”

Equine Guelph thanks the Alcohol and Gaming Commission for providing education, training and awareness project funding in support of AGCO licensees.

UPCOMING COURSES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST 100 AGCO LICENSEES TO REGISTER

Contact Equine Guelph at (519) 824-4120, ext. 54205 or visit online at <https://www.equineguelph.ca/education/>

FALL 2019	
SEP. 16 – 27	Horse Care & Welfare
OCT. 07 – 14	Equine First Aid
OCT. 21 – NOV. 1	Sickness Prevention in Horses

WINTER 2019	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racehorse Respiratory Health*• Lameness/Injury Prevention & Care*• Gut Health & Colic Prevention*• Fire & Emergency Preparedness	

*exclusively for racing industry participants

2019 Race Season

BREED	TRACK	OPENING DAY	CLOSING DAY
QUARTER HORSE	Ajax Downs	May 5	October 21
STANDARD BRED	Clinton Raceway	May 19	August 25
	Dresden Raceway	May 26	August 5
	Flamboro Downs – Winter/Spring	January 3	May 30
	Flamboro Downs – Fall	September 3	December 31
	Georgian Downs	June 1	August 31
	Grand River Raceway	June 5	September 27
	Hanover Raceway	June 1	September 14
	Hiawatha Horse Park	May 4	September 21
	Kawartha Downs	May 11	September 28
	Leamington Raceway	August 4	October 27
	Rideau Carleton Raceway	February 10	December 29
	The Raceway at Western Fair District – Winter/Spring	January 1	May 31
	The Raceway at Western Fair District – Fall	October 4	December 31
	Woodbine Mohawk Park	January 5	December 26
THOROUGHBRED	Fort Erie Race Track	May 28	October 15
	Woodbine Racetrack	April 20	December 15



Photos: John Watkins



Email
racingundersaddle@gmail.com

Website
www.rusontario.com

June 1	Georgian Downs
June 15	Kawartha Downs
June 29	Georgian Downs
July 13	Hanover Raceway
July 27	Georgian Downs
August 4	Clinton Raceway
August 24	Georgian Downs
September 7	Grand River Raceway
September 22	Flamboro Downs
October 4 (Harlequin Finale)	The Raceway at Western Fair District

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF THE RULES OF RACING

Now available on the AGCO website!

The AGCO's *Rules of Racing* for both Standardbred (including RUS) and Thoroughbred (including Quarter Horse) are now available on the AGCO website in an electronic format:

- <https://www.agco.ca/horseracing/rules-thoroughbred-racing>
- <https://www.agco.ca/horseracing/rules-standardbred-racing>

Always current, these online versions are fully searchable and printable and users can easily see what has changed since the last printing as well as refer to the related Directives.

- Know when a Chapter was last updated
- See all the latest changes
- Easily search the Act, Rules and Directives

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About the AGCO

SEARCH RULES OF THOROUGHBRED RACING

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ENGLISH / FRANÇAIS

iAGCO Online Services


Type to search...

Were you able to easily find the information you came for today?
☐ Yes ☐ No

HOME / HORSE RACING

Rules of Thoroughbred Racing

LAST UPDATED: 2019-04-20



[Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015](#)

[Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015 - Ontario Regulation 61/16](#)

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Chapter 12: Claiming Races

LAST UPDATED: 2019-04-20

RECENT UPDATES:
RULES OF THOROUGHBRED RACING

- 2019-04-20
Chapter 12: Claiming Races
Directive - Thoroughbred Directive No. 2 - 2019 - Revisions to Claiming Provisions
- 2019-04-19
Chapter 15: Misconduct, Needles, Syringes and Searches
Directive - Thoroughbred Directive No. 1 - 2019 - Standards-Based Race Day Medication Ban
- 2019-04-19
Chapter 27: Commission Veterinarians, Official Veterinarians and Other Veterinarians
Directive - Thoroughbred Directive No. 1 - 2019 - Standards-Based Race Day Medication Ban

All Updates



Stay up to Date! Follow us on Twitter @AGCO_Racing

New Urging Rules at Woodbine Mohawk Park

The AGCO has amended the *Standardbred Rules of Racing* and Policy Directive No. 5-2009: Penalty Guidelines for Inappropriate Urging of a Horse in Standardbred Racing. Amended wording will limit urging in Standardbred racing to acceptable “wrist action” only and minimum penalties will be applied against infractions. The change became effective on June 3 at Woodbine Mohawk Park and will be gradually phased in to additional racetracks.

This change is the next step in demonstrating the AGCO’s commitment to protecting Ontario’s race horses, enhancing the

integrity of racing and providing a regulatory framework appropriate for today’s racing industry. As this change is implemented, the AGCO remains committed to continued dialogue with the racing community. The AGCO will be closely monitoring the effects of the rule change and developing training and education tools for participants and Race Officials, before expanding the rule to additional racetracks. The industry is encouraged to provide feedback to the AGCO as this change is phased in.

Race Line

This newsletter is published by the **Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario** to provide licensees and interested parties with information regarding horse racing legislation and related issues. Reader comments and content suggestions are welcome.

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