



# Race Line



## In This Issue

- Officially Speaking: What it takes to become a Race Official
- Rules at a Glance: Providing a horse's medical history
- The importance of education in the horse racing community
- Scholarship opportunities at Equine Guelph
- Spotlight On: Aftercare and Rehoming
- Getting to Know You: Senior AGCO Race Official, Gunnar Lindberg
- Understanding the role of the CPMA
- Did you Know? Crunching the numbers on positive tests
- New Standards-Based Temperature Rule under development
- A closer look at Standards-Based regulation
- Moving Ahead: Racing Reform project update

Race Line is the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)'s publication for Ontario's horse racing industry. Printed copies are available at racetracks and industry associations and it may be viewed online in both official languages at [www.agco.ca](http://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 subscribe to Race Line to receive it and other AGCO horse racing-related communications electronically, please email [connect@agco.ca](mailto:connect@agco.ca) or call 416-326-3614.

## Officially Speaking: What it takes to become a Race Official

The AGCO employs 16 Race Officials, responsible for administering the Rules of Racing for all three breeds - Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse and Standardbred - before, during and after a race card. Traditionally, race officials had different designations and responsibilities specific to the breed of horse they were officiating over (i.e. Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse "Stewards" and Standardbred "Judges"). In 2015, the "Race Official Program" was developed by Ontario Racing Commission staff and now serves as the basis of staff development for Racing Operations within the AGCO. The Program is designed so that Race Officials are cross-trained between harness racing and flat racing, making them fully qualified and proficient at officiating at any of the three breeds of racing at recognized tracks in Ontario.

### GETTING STARTED

On an as-needed basis, the AGCO hires "Apprentice Race Officials" -- the entry level position for new hires. At a minimum, an apprentice is required to have a post-secondary education, some exposure to horse racing and be able to work nights and weekends. The AGCO looks for people with a background that has provided them with experience in racing, management or officiating, and who have a good knowledge of horsemanship and the training and care of racehorses. Candidates should ideally also have: familiarity with federal and provincial laws as they apply to racing; a thorough knowledge of the Rules of Racing for all three breeds; a knowledge of legal procedures; an understanding of the Horse Racing Appeal Panel's (HRAP) decisions and policies; a proficiency working with computers and software; and, an awareness of what is happening in other jurisdictions throughout the racing world as it pertains to operational standards, racing protocols, drug usage and horses.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information, you can speak to any AGCO Race Official at the track, or one of our AGCO Racing Operations staff by calling 416-326-8700 or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-522-2876.

### TRAINING

Apprentices are required to go through a one-year training program designed to prepare them to be an active member of a team of Race Officials, regardless of the breed. Training includes rotation through all race breeds as a fourth member of the stand (mentored by the Senior Official) and also includes: formal film reviews; database training (Standardbred Canada and CRIS (the AGCO's Central Racing Information System)); learning the role and function of the race office, licensing agents, the test barn and the mutuel department; and, spending time with inspectors in order to understand their role and function. They are also required to complete courses to obtain formal accreditation.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

The AGCO invests in ongoing training and accreditation for its Race Officials including continuous on-track cross-breed training and film review and by supporting self-directed learning. This includes education and development programs, seminars and workshops, through such resources as Standardbred Canada, the Jockey Club, the AGCO, the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA), Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators (SOAR) and Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP).

### OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Beyond in-race adjudication, Race Officials are responsible for several administrative functions, such as filing Race Reports and issuing rulings. Additionally, they perform activities on non-race days, such as officiating over qualifying events in Standardbred racing and officiating over draws in Thoroughbred racing.

## Rules at a Glance: Providing a horse's medical history

**AS WE ENTER SALES SEASON, THE INDUSTRY IS REMINDED OF THE FOLLOWING RULE:**

**Standardbred 6.50 | Thoroughbred 15.09.03:** When a change of ownership of a horse racing in Ontario has occurred, the former owner or his/her agent must make the written medical history of that horse available upon request to the new owner or his/her agent within 72 hours of the request. Failure or refusal to provide

the written medical history may result in a monetary penalty and/or suspension. The request for medical records must be made within 30 days of any transfer.

**Standardbred 6.51 | Thoroughbred 15.09.04:** For the purposes of Rule 6.50/15.09.03, the written medical history of the horse shall include the records of administration, including brand and date for: (i) Vaccinations, (ii) Dewormings.

## The importance of education in the horse racing community

This spring, with funding assistance from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Grand River Agricultural Society, Equine Guelph developed two programs to emphasize the importance of educating the industry on fire prevention and emergency response. Troy Moffatt is an AGCO Investigator and a volunteer firefighter with the South West Oxford Fire and Emergency Services. With the support of both AGCO Racing Operations and his Fire Chief, Jeff Van Rybroeck, he was able to attend the two courses which were run as part of this program and agreed to share his experience with *Race Line*.

The courses were facilitated by Equine Guelph and the world-renowned Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, PhD (Animal Physiology), an internationally-sought instructor in technical rescue techniques, procedures, and methodologies.

The first course, **Fire Prevention and Emergency Rescue Training for the Horse Racing Industry** was a two-day workshop kindly hosted by Mohawk Racetrack. Attendees included racetrack personnel (including security, maintenance and gate crew), trainers, owners, grooms, barn owners, and veterinarians. "Whether it be a fire, an incident at the starting gate, or a racing accident, we, as AGCO Investigators, are present at all race tracks and emergencies can occur," said Troy. "Having witnessed first-hand the devastating losses from last year's Classy Lane barn fire, I felt it was important to attend and benefit from the course content and then be able to bring that information back to share with my colleagues and other racing partners." The course covered pre-planning for emergencies, fire prevention through the use of approved and safe wiring and appliances, preventative maintenance such as proper barn housekeeping, being able to recognize potential safety issues and how to react during an emergency with an emphasis on safety. It also emphasized the importance of horsepeople understanding what emergency responders can and need to do and the methods that they use, so that in a time of crisis, everyone is working efficiently, together.

“It is important for racing industry participants to continue to educate themselves as change is constant. Information is always updating regarding horse health, medications and best practices, including what we know about emergencies and how to prevent them.”

The second course was the three-day **Operations-Level Large Animal Rescue**, developed specifically for active firefighters. The course was hosted by the Meaford Fire Department, which, according to Troy, "did an outstanding job staging the emergencies". This was a comprehensive hands-on course that covered best practices for safely handling and removing horses or other livestock from trailers/ ditches / septic beds to minimize any injuries. The course covered barn fires, as well as overturned trucks and trailers and car accidents with buggy horses. "At South West Oxford Fire and Emergency Services, we cover a large agricultural area as well as a significant stretch of Highway 401. Courses such as this help us to be better equipped to respond to emergencies. As you can imagine there are some significant issues when a transport hauling a large number of animals such as cattle or pigs flips over on a highway and the animals run loose. A horse



trailer hauling horses poses different issues again. If an emergency organization can anticipate and pre-plan for these types of incidents, it increases the odds that the incident can be handled in a safe and efficient way, leading to a successful outcome for all involved."

### FINAL THOUGHTS FROM TROY?

"I would strongly advise that horsepeople and farm owners contact their local fire department and create a relationship with them. The fire department can come to your location and conduct fire inspections of the premises and offer suggestions as to how to make the property safer for people and horses or other livestock. A number of people are under the misconception that the fire department will come to the premises and charge people with violations. That is not the case. The fire department wants to come and offer the information. It is also a good idea for the fire department to view the location and pre-plan how they would in fact respond to an emergency, be it weather-related e.g. a fire, flood or tornado, or medical issue, such as a heart attack, stroke or a fall from a jog cart or horse. Pre-planning can be as simple as planning for the staging of the emergency vehicles: Will the fire truck fit in the driveway? How close can it get to the barn? Are the barns numbered? You certainly don't want the fire department to view your property for the first time when they are responding to your emergency."

**Update:** Another session of the Large Animal Rescue Operational Level Course is being offered at the Meaford Fire Department Training Centre in Meaford, ON, November 17 -19, 2017. For information, please contact Dr. Susan Raymond [slraymon@uoguelph.ca](mailto:slraymon@uoguelph.ca) or 519-824-4120 ext 54230. To register, visit: <https://thehorseportal.ca/course/large-animal-rescue-operational-level-course/>.

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT EQUINE GUELPH

Online courses at Equine Guelph offer flexibility and 24/7 accessibility. For a list of course offerings and registration information, visit <http://www.equineguelph.ca/education/>. Entries for the next **Stuart Stocks Memorial Equine Award** will be accepted until **November 15**. A new award, **the Roger L'Heureux Memorial Equine Award** has been established in loving memory of Roger L'Heureux by David L'Heureux and Crystal Fountains. Entries will be accepted until **November 27**. For details on how to apply for these opportunities, please visit [http://www.equineguelph.ca/education/tuition\\_awards.php](http://www.equineguelph.ca/education/tuition_awards.php).

## Spotlight On: Aftercare and Rehoming

**LONGRUN** LongRun's mission is to find alternative careers or loving, adoptive homes for Thoroughbred racehorses when they are no longer able to compete, ensuring them the dignified and happy retirement they deserve.

Website: [www.longrunretirement.com](http://www.longrunretirement.com)



The Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society (OSAS) is an approved charitable organization, that educates and assist in the adoption and retraining of retired and non-racing Standardbred horses within Ontario.

Website: [www.osas.ca](http://www.osas.ca)

The AGCO is committed to enhancing the fairness, integrity and safety of horse racing in Ontario, while at the same time enhancing public confidence, reducing administrative burdens, and modernizing horse racing regulation.

# Getting to Know You: Senior AGCO Race Official, Gunnar Lindberg



*Officiating a race is not as easy as it sounds – nor is it all the job entails. We spoke with Senior AGCO Race Official, Gunnar Lindberg, about his racing career, his role as a Racing Official and why still, after 50 years, his passion for the sport is as strong as ever.*

His grandfather was a jockey. His dad Herb “Lindy” Lindberg was a Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame jockey. And AGCO’s own Gunnar Lindberg? Yes, he was a jockey, too.

For him, there was never a question about what he would do with his life. “I just always knew what I wanted to be,” he said. After quitting school at age 16 to live and work at Woodbine Racetrack, Gunnar rode for 18 years, winning over 1,000 races including some 70 high-profile stakes. The horse that stands out for him is Selari Spirit, a horse he rode early on in his career. “I won seven major stake races on him and we set three track records at three different tracks. Probably not the best horse I rode but he’s the one that stands out.”

When he retired from the saddle in 1991, Gunnar spent the next 10 years managing mutuel and teletheatre operations at Woodbine, followed by a stint on the Industry Appeal Board at the Ontario Racing Commission. For the last 15 years, he has been a Senior Race Official, primarily officiating Thoroughbred races at Fort Erie and Woodbine.

The question he is asked most frequently by fans is if the races are fixed. His answer is always an unequivocal “no”. Between Ontario’s exacting rules and regulations, a diligent team of Commission inspectors and the negligible amount of money that could actually be earned by fixing a race, it’s just not worth it to try. Besides, that’s why he is there. Watching. Beyond a Race Official’s responsibility as an employee of the regulator to monitor the race for any rule infractions, they must also watch for and “read” the race for anything that doesn’t look right. That is the most indefinable part of officiating – the ability to be able to see not just what is happening during a race, but being able to sense things before they actually happen – a skill that only comes after many years of experience.

However, the job of a Race Official extends well beyond in-race officiating. Post-race adjudicative duties such as holding reviews and attending appeal hearings, often means having to play different roles – including, some days, just being a good listener and providing a supportive shoulder -- in different situations for different participants. That can be challenging. But the hardest part of the job is also the best.

When asked, there was no hesitation before he said “the people” are the best part of his job. Gunnar’s affection and respect for the horsepeople and his pride at being able to continue to make a difference - to the participants, the industry and the sport - clearly shines through when he talks about his career and the many roles he’s played through the years. “I love the people, I love the atmosphere. When racing is in your blood, it’s there forever.”

## Understanding the role of the CPMA

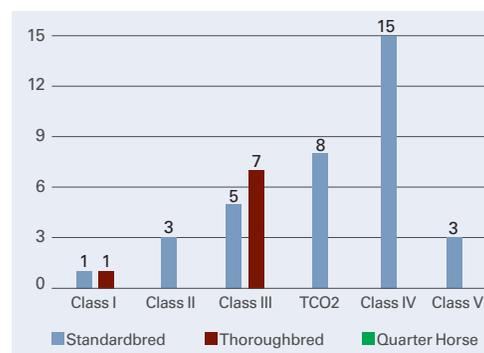


Responsible for regulating and supervising pari-mutuel betting on horse races to ensure that it is conducted in a way that is fair to the public, the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) works closely with the AGCO to deter the use of prohibited substances in race horses. As the administrator of the Equine Drug Control Program, the CPMA performs research, provides information on elimination guidelines for veterinary drugs and carries out testing before and after races. If a horse tests positive for prohibited drugs, the AGCO will receive the Certificate of Positive Analysis and is responsible for advising the trainer and imposing any sanctions.

CPMA staff are available to come out and give a 1-2 hour presentation to horsepeople’s groups and associations, to explain their role in greater detail, as well as provide information on their testing methods, processes and research findings. Contact them at [cpmawebacpm@agr.gc.ca](mailto:cpmawebacpm@agr.gc.ca) or 1-800-268-8835 if you are interested in having them visit your group or association!

## Did you Know?

- In addition to TCO2, there are five classes of prohibited substances.
- Classes I and II are potent stimulants or depressants that have the most potential to influence performance.
- Classes III to V tend to be therapeutic medications prescribed by a veterinarian. Most positive tests fall into this group and generally are the result of not waiting long enough for medication to clear a horse’s system.
- **From the over 9,400 races run in Ontario in 2016, there were 43 positive tests recorded.**
- **Of those positive tests, 88% were Class III or below.**



BREED	2016		CPMA Testing			AGCO Testing			Total Positives	
	RACES	HORSES	SAMPLES	POSITIVES	%	SAMPLES	TCO2	%	BY BREED	PER RACE
Standardbred	7,677	61,262	13,267	27	0.20%	15,471	8	0.05%	<b>35</b>	0.46%
Thoroughbred	1,566	13,139	3,327	8	0.24%	1,602	0	0.00%	<b>8</b>	0.51%
Quarter Horse	230	1,605	352	0	0.00%	459	0	0.00%	<b>0</b>	0.00%
	<b>9,473</b>	<b>76,006</b>	<b>16,946</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>17,532</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.05%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0.45%</b>

## Editor’s Note:

This is the final issue of Race Line for 2017. Our next issue will be out in early spring to coincide with the start of the summer racing season. We hope you have enjoyed this publication; previous issues are available to read online at [www.agco.ca](http://www.agco.ca). As this is a new initiative, we would appreciate hearing your feedback as well as any suggestions you may have for topics you might like to see in future issues. Please email us at [connect@agco.ca](mailto:connect@agco.ca) or call 416-326-3614.

## New Standards-Based Temperature Rule being developed for Ontario racetracks



Photo by: Renée Kierans

Designed to safeguard the welfare of our race horses and racing participants, a new Standards-Based Temperature Rule is under development to address how racetracks will approach racing in cases of extreme temperature, be it heat or cold. It will be one of the first examples of a standards-based rule developed for the horse racing industry by the AGCO (as opposed to a new, prescriptive rule or directive). As part of its modern regulatory approach, the AGCO is moving to a standard-based regulatory framework, where appropriate, across all its lines of business. This fall the AGCO will be engaging with industry representatives, including racetrack operators, horsepeople and industry associations on the draft standards-based rule and what would be required in terms of achieving compliance. AGCO Race Officials will be trained to support racetracks and horse people to help ensure compliance with the new standard-based rule once it is finalized later in 2017.

## A closer look at standards-based regulation and what it means for Ontario's horse racing industry

As new initiatives are discussed and implemented, the AGCO continues to move in the direction of a standards-based approach to regulation. In official terms, "The objective of a standards-based regulatory model is to shift the focus from requiring licensees to comply with a specific set of rules or processes, towards the broader regulatory outcomes they are expected to achieve." In plain English? Instead of writing a strict, detailed rule, the regulator will communicate the *outcome* it is looking for.

For example: Instead of having a prescriptive rule that states, "Every stall at a racetrack must have a minimum of two 100-watt lights", a standards-based rule might simply say, "Sufficient lighting must be provided to ensure that each stall area is adequately lit." This gives the racetrack the freedom to choose the method that will work best for them (whether it be lighting each stall individually or installing a centralized lighting system), while achieving the level of safety desired by the Registrar.

## Moving Ahead: Racing Reform project update

**Paddock Video Replay Initiative** | On a trial basis at Mohawk and Woodbine racetracks, in August the AGCO installed equipment, which allows for the provision of video replay of a race. This allows participants to view the same footage as the Race Officials as they are communicating during an inquiry. Tyrone Harding, Assistant Clerk of the Scales, said the system so far, is "working very well" and makes it easier for the jockeys to relate to what the Race Officials are saying when they can see it for themselves. After the pilot has run for a few months, its effectiveness will be evaluated, at which time a decision will be made to either discontinue it or expand it to additional tracks. Thanks to Tyrone Harding, Alison Read (Clerk of the Scales) and jockey Michelle Rainford for their assistance with this story.

**Twitter and Race Reports Pilot Update** | The AGCO is looking into the technical requirements of embedding video into Race Reports, to support transparent communication and to serve as an educational and training tool. Race Officials are no longer tweeting in-race calls via the @AGCO\_Racing account, however they are tweeting the link to the Race Reports, which are posted on Standardbred Canada at the end of the day.

**Officiating Working Group** | The Officiating Working Group has concluded its work. The recommendations coming out of the group, including a report summarizing the issues, ideas and thoughts that were brought forward throughout the four-month engagement process, is posted at on the AGCO website at [www.agco.ca](http://www.agco.ca) on the 'Moving Ahead' project page in the Horse Racing section. It also



includes the AGCO's response and plans for implementing many of the recommended changes.

**Equine Drug Working Group** | This group continues to meet and is expected to conclude its work this fall.

**Health and Safety Working Group** | This working group held its first meeting on September 28, 2017 and is expected to meet 4-5 times over the course of the fall, 2017. Using the *Findings Report* as a basis for the topics for discussion, the intention of this working group is to increase awareness and understanding of the AGCO's high standards for equine welfare and participant safety in Ontario, while improving components of these critical areas. The AGCO will also seek to establish a mutual understanding of broader industry roles, by identifying new opportunities for leadership, collaboration and coordination.

## 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.

**Editor**  
Alcohol and Gaming  
Commission of Ontario  
90 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200  
Toronto, Ontario M2N 0A4  
[connect@agco.ca](mailto:connect@agco.ca)

**General Inquiries**  
416-326-8700 or toll free in Ontario 1-800-522-2876  
E-mail: [customer.service@agco.ca](mailto:customer.service@agco.ca)  
Web: [www.agco.ca](http://www.agco.ca)

DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS

