



Race Line



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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 subscribe to *Race Line* to receive it and other AGCO horse racing-related communications electronically, please email connect@agco.ca or call 416-326-3614.

Moving Ahead: Racing Reform Project Update

AGCO is in the final stretch of its comprehensive review of the Rules of Racing that commenced in June 2016 with the release of a detailed consultation paper. Engagement across the industry and with other government partners has generated many policy reform recommendations that support the AGCO's goal to have a horse racing regulatory framework that is simple, flexible and effective for both the regulator and those being regulated while maintaining our commitment to the welfare of the horse.

The AGCO is in the process of addressing many of the recommendations from all three external working groups (i.e., Officiating, Equine Drug Program and Health and Safety) ahead of the 2018 racing season. These working groups were created in order to discuss some of the more complex issues raised at the industry roundtables in greater depth and to provide an opportunity for the industry to shape recommendations to the AGCO on key issues of concern.

HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Launched in September 2017, the Health and Safety Working Group has met on four occasions, with its final meeting held in January, 2018. The intention of this working group was to build on stakeholder feedback heard through the initial consultation process and focus on initiatives that would increase awareness and understanding of the AGCO's and the industry's high standards for equine welfare and participant safety in Ontario, while improving components of these critical areas. With strong representation from across Ontario's horse racing sector, the working group also discussed the opportunity for broader industry leadership on health and safety issues.

The working group has discussed a range of significant health and safety-related issues, including, but not limited to, biosecurity, equine medical records, workplace harassment,

concussion safety, life cycle of a horse (including horse slaughter), the use of shock wave machines and blood-gas machines, de-nerving and the newly enacted standards-based rule on extreme temperatures. The final meeting was dedicated to finalizing the recommendations which will be presented to the AGCO for consideration. A Working Group Summary Report outlining the recommendations will be made publicly available in early March 2018.

RACE REPORTS PILOT UPDATE

Since April 2017, the AGCO has been piloting the posting of Race Reports as part of its commitment to enhanced transparency. The pilot began with the posting of Race Reports from The Raceway at Western Fair and was expanded to include Mohawk and Woodbine Standardbred. As of January 2018, the Race Reports from Flamboro Downs are now being posted as well. The reports are posted on the Standardbred Canada website at www.standardbredcanada.ca.



Your feedback on this initiative is appreciated. Please take the 'Moving Ahead' survey today and let us know your thoughts: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AGCO_MovingAhead0218

Did you know?

The AGCO's horse racing industry Information Bulletins are located in the "Helpful Resources" section in the "About the AGCO" dropdown at www.agco.ca.

You can also subscribe via connect@agco.ca

Ready for a New Year of Racing?

The 2018 calendar of race dates has been released and is posted on the AGCO website.

Full track and schedule information is available at www.ontarioracing.com



Photo credit: Ericka Rusnak

Opening Day 2018

Quarter Horse

Ajax Downs Sunday, May 6

Standardbred

Clinton Raceway Sunday, May 20
 Dresden Raceway Sunday, May 27
 Flamboro Downs Thursday, January 4
 Georgian Downs Saturday, June 2
 Grand River Raceway Friday, June 1
 Hanover Raceway Saturday, June 2
 Hiawatha Horse Park Saturday, May 5
 Kawartha Downs Saturday, May 26
 Leamington Raceway Sunday, August 5
 Mohawk Park Thursday, April 12
 Rideau Carleton Raceway Sunday, February 18
 The Raceway at Western Fair District Monday, January 1
 Woodbine Racetrack Saturday, January 6

Thoroughbred

Fort Erie Race Track Tuesday, May 29
 Woodbine Racetrack Saturday, April 21

Getting to Know: Senior AGCO Race Official, John Dorion



Like so many in this industry, John Dorion's first memories of racing go back to spending time with family at the track. Whether it was hanging out with his dad or uncle at the Barrie Raceway, his love for racing started young and has never wavered.

Armed with a Harness Racing Industry Operations diploma from Seneca College, John started his hands-on work in the

industry as a full-time groom at Greenwood. This led to eight years as an assistant trainer, followed by being licensed as both a driver and a trainer.

Fast forward to 2010, when John joined the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC). Starting as a part-time, then full-time Standardbred Judge, he quickly became credentialed as an Associate Race Official, qualified to adjudicate all three breeds. Despite being raised in the Standardbred industry, John's deep appreciation for the speed and excitement of Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing is evident and in 2011 he settled in as a Steward at Fort Erie.

Following the development of the Commission's accident protocol in 2013, a year later he took on the additional role of Equine Accident Specialist. With an accident defined as "any abnormal contact or fall by a horse or participant at the racetrack, primarily during racing hours", John is charged with the task of looking into the more serious incidents, generally those resulting in a serious

injury or hospitalization of a participant or horse. As on-track Race Officials electronically input occurrences into their Reports, he is notified of an accident in real time so he can open an investigation. Video review, witness statements collected from participants (e.g. veterinarians, paddock judges, starters, security and Race Officials) and a review of the protocols followed (such as response times by EMS or security) are all carefully analyzed until a picture emerges as to the contributing factors of the accident -- be it weather, track condition, driver/jockey error, horse performance, etc. In consultation with experts (e.g. veterinarians, the Ministry of Labour) and supported by his years of practical hands-on experience in the industry, he writes a comprehensive report including recommendations on how to prevent or limit reoccurrence of a similar incident.

One such recommendation was the implementation of racetrack emergency sirens. Where previously there had just been warning lights, tracks now have sirens that sound in the event of an on-track incident, signaling the participants to immediately stop the race. Since their introduction, these sirens have been employed about ten times and there have been no further incidents of secondary on-track accidents.

Asked what has kept him in the industry all these years, he didn't hesitate. "Passion", he said. "Passion for the races, the sport, the industry, the competitors. If I had to say only one thing, it would just be my deep appreciation for the horse itself."

Watching John's face when he speaks about this industry and seeing how seriously he takes his responsibility to ensure the welfare of our horses and participants, it's safe to say that everyone involved is in very good hands.

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.

New rules require additional measures to be taken for racing in extreme temperatures

After consultation with respect to proposed rule changes and consistent with the AGCO’s movement towards standards-based rules, there was favorable support in the industry to revise the current rules for weather to include consideration for temperature.

In response, the AGCO released two Directives (**Standardbred Directive No. 4 – 2017 and Thoroughbred Directive No. 3 – 2017**) which updated the Rules of Racing to impose conditions of racing in either extremely hot or cold temperatures.

Under the new rules, racetrack operators are required to check the temperature prior to post time to determine if the forecasted temperature falls within “Tier 1” or “Tier 2” in the chart below. If it does, the racetrack has the option to cancel the race card and notify participants before they arrive at the racetrack. If the racetrack decides to go ahead with the card, specific measures must now be put in place to ensure the safety and well-being of both the horses and participants.

New rules notwithstanding, drivers/jockeys and trainers retain their right under the current rules to hold a vote to cancel racing.

Racetracks are required to notify the AGCO of the official weather source they will be using to determine the forecasted temperature. This source is posted at the racetracks and is also available on the AGCO website, in “Know Your Obligations” section at the bottom of the **Operators: Racetracks and Teletheatres webpage**.



CLASS ME NICE photo by John Watkins

TEMPERATURE STANDARDS-BASED RULE CANCELLATION PROCESS FOR RACETRACKS



For more information, call the Veterinary Services hotline at 1-855-261-6821

1 RACE CANCELLATION DETERMINATION
Prior to post time, Racetrack Operators to consult weather source to determine if forecasted temperature falls within Tier 1 or Tier 2 guidelines.

2 NO CANCELLATION

- Forecasted temperature falls within Tier 1 or Tier 2
- Racetrack Operators determine that race will not be cancelled
- Extra measures must be implemented

or

RACE CANCELLATION IN ADVANCE

- Forecasted temperature falls within Tier 1 or Tier 2
- Racetrack Operator cancels the race card; and,
- Communicates cancellation to industry participants

or

CANCELLATION AT TRACK ON RACE DAY (current process)

- Forecasted temperature does not fall within Tier 1 or Tier 2
- Race is not cancelled prior to post time but actual temperature or other concerns are raised (weather related, track surfaces etc.)

| | Tier 1 | Tier 2 |
|--|--|---|
| FORECASTED TEMPERATURE RANGE | 31° C to 37.9° C | Equal to or greater than 38° C |
| | -15° C to -24.9° C | Equal to or less than -25° C |
| WEATHER RELATED SCRATCHES PERMITTED WITHOUT PENALTY | Yes | Yes |
| ADDITIONAL MEASURES | Additional measures must be put in place to ensure the well-being of the horse and any licensees with positions that may be impacted by extreme temperature. | The following additional measures must be put in place to ensure the well-being of the horse and any licensees with positions that may be impacted by extreme temperature: Heat: 2 additional vets, or 1 additional vet and 1 registered vet tech to monitor temperature, pulse and respiration rate of equine athletes pre-race and post-race; extra hosing stations or mobile cooling stations with trained attendant; access to water for horses at all times; shaded areas provided for unsaddling horses; ice available in numerous locations; Racing Officials to minimize post parade time. Cold: 2 additional vets, or 1 additional vet and 1 additional registered vet technician to monitor temperature, pulse and respiration of equine athletes pre-race and post-race, as well as conditions related to cold weather including frost bite; tongues not tied outside of horse’s mouth; blankets shall be provided for each horse; Racing Officials to minimize post parade time. |
| CANCELLATION REQUIRED | Yes, unless additional measures are put into place. | Yes, unless additional measures (above) are put into place. |

Read us online!

When you view Race Line online in either English or French, all of the links are clickable – taking you quickly to the extra information you need to have.

www.agco.ca/newsletters

What’s new?

As part of the AGCO’s commitment to being a modern regulator, public inquiries and complaints may now be submitted to the AGCO electronically via iAGCO Online Services. When your submission is received you will receive a reference number that will allow you to track the status of your inquiry/complaint online.

What’s next?

Please visit the AGCO website for a list of all online services currently available and those planned for future rollouts.

iAGCO



Stay informed!

Participants are reminded that it is your responsibility to keep up with changes to the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) guidelines and are encouraged to subscribe to receive **Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency email notifications**.

If you have medication-related question, you may contact Carolyn Cooper or Lydia Brooks at cpmawebackpm@agr.gc.ca or 1-800-268-8835.

Race Reports? Twitter? Race Line?

Take the 'Moving Ahead' survey today and let us know your thoughts:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AGCO_MovingAhead0218

Rules at a Glance: When do changes made to the Rules of Racing take effect?

Changes to the Rules of Racing are not official until a decision is released by the Registrar of Alcohol, Racing and Gaming. This is usually done by the signing of a Directive, but can also be dealt with through the issuance of a new updated rule book. The effective date of the changes are not necessarily the same as the release date. In keeping with the AGCO's commitment to transparency, reports of the issues raised and considered within working groups are released to industry to keep participants informed of the kinds of discussions taking place and the AGCO's intended course of

action with respect to adopting new rules or policies. Prior to implementation, proposed changes are carefully reviewed to ensure that the changes are practical, implementable, and in the best interest of racing. Following consultation with the Officiating, Equine Drug Program and Health and Safety working groups, **the AGCO is preparing to release a package of rule changes in late March, which will take effect on April 21, 2018** in time for the start of the spring racing season. A list of Directives currently in effect, may be found on the **AGCO's website**.

Spotlight On: Industry Publications

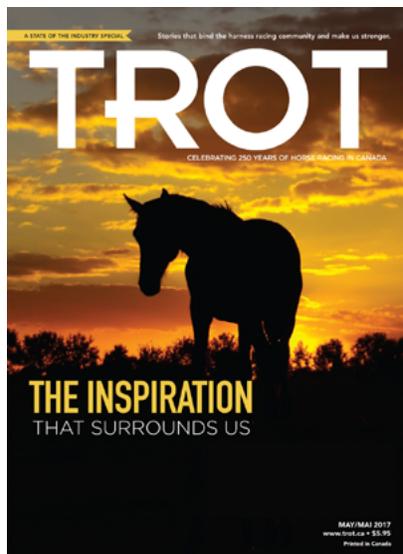
Ontario racing fans and industry insiders are fortunate to have access to a high quality of information, features stories and creative content for all three breeds.

Thoroughbred



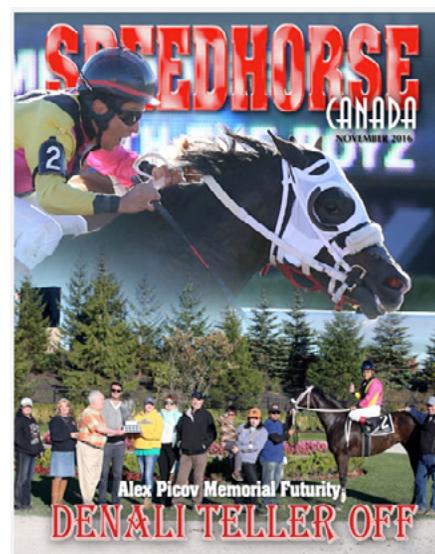
Canadian Thoroughbred
horse-canada.com/canadian-thoroughbred

Standardbred



TROT Magazine
standardbredcanada.ca/trot

Quarter Horse



Speedhorse Canada
speedhorse.com/canada

The next issue of Race Line will be published in the spring of 2018. Complimentary copies will be available at open race tracks and industry associations. All issues are **available online** in both official languages on the AGCO website.

Your feedback is appreciated, 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 or call 416-326-3614.

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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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