



# Race Line



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Welcome to the inaugural issue of "Race Line", the AGCO's publication for Ontario's horse racing industry. We welcome your ideas and input. If you have subjects you would like to see addressed in future publications, please email [connect@agco.ca](mailto:connect@agco.ca) or call 416-326-3614.

## Changes to the Rules of Racing effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

On March 16, in the context of the 'Moving Ahead: Horse Racing Regulation in Ontario' project, the AGCO announced an initial series of rule changes and policy reforms, which are part of a comprehensive review of our approach to horse racing regulation and an extensive industry-engagement process.

These changes were developed from the stakeholder input received and every effort was made to ensure the changes would be practical, implementable, and would make sense for the industry. The rule changes took effect on April 1, 2017; policy changes will be implemented throughout the year. Below is a summary of the key rule changes, including what has changed and why:

**Standardbred Race Coupling** | Previously, if an owner or trainer had more than one horse entered in a race and/or their spouse also had a horse in the race, it was considered to be one entry. The horses would be "coupled" together (for example as 1 and 1A) and placing a bet on one or the other would result in placing a bet on both as a single betting interest. With this rule change, bettors can now place a wager on both horses as separate betting interests, which will increase the betting options available to the public.

**Reason:** This change aligns with rule changes previously made for Thoroughbred races, recognizes the importance of having full fields of separate betting interests for Ontario Standardbred races and provides participants with expanded economic opportunities, as more horses may be added onto race cards.

**A New Approach to Jockey Conflicts of Interest** | Previously, a jockey could not ride in a race against a horse that was owned or trained by their spouse, or owned by their mother, father, brother or sister. The family restriction is now removed (subject to the discretion of the Race Officials), as long as the relationship is declared to the Race Officials and the Race Secretary.

**Reason:** This rule change will create a more fair and transparent process for addressing conflicts of interest.

**An Increase in the Weight Requirement for Quarter Horse Jockeys** | The weight allowance for Quarter Horse Jockeys has been increased, allowing a Quarter Horse to carry from 120lbs up to and including 130lbs.

**Reason:** This will help to alleviate an existing Quarter Horse jockey shortage by increasing the number of jockeys who can "make weight" and be eligible to ride.

**Elimination of the Directives (supplemental rules) for Triactor and Superfecta field sizes** | Previously, racetracks could only offer triactor (picking the top three horses in a race) and superfecta (top four) wagering if there were a certain number of horses (separate betting interests) entered in the race (5 for triactors and 7 for superfectas). Eliminating these field size restrictions allows the racetracks to decide for themselves the races on which these bets can be offered, again, potentially leading to an increase in the handle.

**Reason:** This supports the AGCO's approach of moving away from regulating business decisions for licensees, where those decisions do not pose a risk to the industry with respect to integrity, safety and the public interest.

For more information and updates, please visit the 'Moving Ahead: Horse Racing Regulation in Ontario' project page on the AGCO website at [www.agco.on.ca](http://www.agco.on.ca).

### HUMAN ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM CHANGES

There were 3 significant changes made to the Human Alcohol and Drug Program:

- A re-evaluation of the definition of a 'Safety Sensitive Position' in horse racing;
- Definition and clarification of what is deemed a prohibited substance (including cannabis and cannabis products); and,
- Adoption of on-site screening for all prohibited and restricted substances (previously, on-site screening was limited to alcohol).

In addition, a number of rule changes are being made to establish 'Safety Sensitive Positions' and a protocol for what positions may be considered 'Safety Sensitive' in the future.

INDUSTRY REMINDER

# Horse Racing Participants to ONLY use AGCO Licensed Veterinarians

**The 2016 Rules of Racing state that:** “For any medication or drug requiring a prescription and any treatment ordinarily requiring the services of a veterinarian for any horse under his/her care and control, a trainer is required to use a veterinarian licensed by the Commission as a veterinarian.”

The rule (**SB 26.17, TB 29.13**) regarding the use of AGCO licensed vets is in place to mitigate an ongoing concern in the racing community about the number of positive tests and the use of non-therapeutic medications in racehorses. AGCO licensed veterinarians, given their specialization in racehorses, are likely to be more familiar with the elimination times for therapeutic medications in racehorses and to administer or prescribe

medications which are of benefit to the health and welfare of the horse. Trainers may apply to the AGCO for an exemption from this rule if their location is under-served by AGCO licensed veterinarians. As well, a trainer may use a veterinarian not licensed by the AGCO for the purposes of scheduled surgeries or emergency treatment of a horse.

The health and welfare of the horse are of paramount concern to the horse racing community. The requirement to use a licensed veterinarian is just one of a number of health, safety, and regulatory measures that have been implemented to protect the health of the horse, ensure the safety of the participant, and reinforce the integrity of the horse racing industry.

## Working Groups: Policy Reform from the Inside Out

The AGCO is establishing three Working Groups to review and make recommendations for policy reform in the following areas:

- Officiating
- Equine Drug Program
- Health and Safety (Equine and Human)

Comprised of 10-20 members and involving a range of industry participants representing all three breeds, the groups will be mandated to provide advice on reforms that are practical and incorporate to the extent possible, the needs and best interests of the industry as a whole.

### MOVING AHEAD: What's Next?

**APRIL 2017**

Launch of the Twitter and Race Report Pilot

**MAY 2017**

First meetings of the Officiating and Equine Drug Program Working Groups

**SUMMER 2017**

First meeting of the Health & Safety Working Group

**FALL 2017**

Proposed release of second wave of policy changes

## Barn Fire Safety: Equine Guelph's Top 10 Checklist

Fire is an ever-present concern for stable owners. Contact your local fire department to do a walkthrough of your property and provide recommendations for a pre-plan. A qualified electrician should also evaluate your facility. There are many steps that can be taken to establish good fire prevention practices. The following list provides an excellent starting point. To download a copy of this checklist that you can print and post, visit [EquineGuelph.ca](http://EquineGuelph.ca).

1. Smoke detectors/alarms are present and tested (batteries changed) as per manufacturer's recommendations.
2. A floor and site plan is located on your property and includes instructions on how to shut off the utilities.
3. 10 pound ABC fire extinguishers are mounted at each exit and everyone at the stable knows how to use one.
4. All electrical wire is encased in non-corrosive conduit, outlets are GFCI protected and extension cords are rated outdoor and for temporary use only.



5. All fans and heaters used are suitable for agriculture.
6. All light fixtures are encased in safety enclosures or LED lighting is used.
7. Regular cleanup and disposal of debris including cobwebs, hay and bedding.
8. Flammable liquids, fuels and combustion-powered equipment are not stored in the stable.
9. Hay and bedding are stored in a separate building a practical distance from stable (note: a few days' supply of hay/bedding can be stored in the stable).
10. Make sure aisles and doors are clear at all times.

## Pilot Projects

In-keeping with its strategic objective of being a modern regulator, the AGCO is committed to exploring new and innovative ways of regulating the industry. Two pilot projects are currently in progress, which are testing the introduction of new technologies to the sport.

### DRONE PILOT

On Friday December 2, 2016, the AGCO captured footage of morning qualifying sessions at The Raceway at Western

Fair District through the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), commonly referred to as a drone.

The intent of the pilot project was to explore innovative ways to build on the officiating capabilities of AGCO Race Officials. The unique camera angles possible from drones could provide improved fields of view that could ultimately assist AGCO officials in officiating races, focusing on potential infractions such as interference, urging violations, or horses leaving the course (pylon rule). The AGCO is continuing to review the use of high-quality, overhead video angles to explore the use of innovative video technology to improve consistency, transparency, and fairness in Ontario's horse racing product.

# Published Race Reports and Real-Time Communication during Live Racing via Twitter

As part of the AGCO's commitment to transparency and enhanced communication, the AGCO, in partnership with The Raceway at Western Fair District and Standardbred Canada, has launched a pilot project to release race reports after a day/evening of racing. Additionally, real time communication for the explanation of critical in-race calls will be enhanced with the use of Twitter. The pilot began on April 10. The intent of the pilot is to get the right processes in place before potentially expanding the initiative to other racetracks. During the pilot, the AGCO will review the effectiveness of the release of Race Reports and tweets during live racing to ensure these tools are assisting in enhancing communication between the AGCO, industry

participants, and the general public. Once complete, results of the pilot will be reviewed, and a decision made during the summer as to whether to continue or expand the project.

During the pilot, the Race Reports may be viewed at:

The Raceway at Western Fair District: <http://bit.ly/2q2udmY>

Standardbred Canada: <http://bit.ly/2pvP4PJ>



@AGCO\_Racing  
@CAJO\_Courses

## Did You Know?

The AGCO issues nearly 18,000 licences a year for the horse racing industry alone, making it the second largest AGCO-regulated industry after liquor.



### EQUINE GUELPH'S NEW HORSE PORTAL

Equine Guelph is a pioneer in online equine education. Through this platform, Equine Guelph has partnered with equine organizations across Canada to offer flexible online health and welfare training programs for every person who is responsible for a horse. The Horse Portal brings together a community of horse caregivers from across the land and provides practical, common sense training through its short-course format for busy lives. The online courses are a great, economical way to stay current on emerging issues, national codes and standards for horse care.

<https://thehorseportal.ca>

### FOCUS ON

## Labelling Requirements

#### THOROUGHBRED 15.31.01 | STANDARD BRED 6.46.01

"No person shall possess, administer, traffic, or attempt to possess, administer, or traffic, in a drug, substance or medication, or anything held out to be a drug, substance or medication, for a horse: (d) which is not labeled, or accurately labeled, with the contained drug, substance, medication, or active ingredient..."

#### THOROUGHBRED 27.20 | STANDARD BRED 8.14

The above rules state that a veterinarian who dispenses a drug or medication needs to label the container in which the drug or medication is dispensed with the following information:

1. Name and strength of the drug or medication;
2. Date and quantity prescribed;
3. Name and address of the dispensing veterinarian;
4. Name of the horse for which it is prescribed;
5. Name of the trainer of the horse;
6. Directions for use.

In the event that a drug or medication is to be dispensed to multiple horses from a single container, such container shall be marked "BARN USE", and will be exempt from bullets 2 and 5 above and replaced by a written log, to include the following information:

- Name of the horse for which it is prescribed, and
- Date and quantity prescribed.



# Ontario's Horse Racing Industry: Who Does What?

On April 1, 2016, the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) ceased operations and on that date, as mandated by the *Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015*, the regulatory responsibilities for horse racing were transferred to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). Non-regulatory functions were transferred to other organizations. **To provide some clarity, the following is an overview of the industry landscape as it exists today.**

**Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA)** | The CPMA is a federal special operating agency within Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that regulates and supervises pari-mutuel betting in Canada on horse races, thereby ensuring that pari-mutuel betting is conducted in a way that is fair to the public. Under its regulations, the CPMA sets out the requirement for a commission (in the case of Ontario it's the AGCO that is the provincial regulator) to supervise and regulate horse racing, including setting the rules for racing. In order for a racetrack to operate in Canada, it must receive a racetrack licence from the provincial regulator before it can apply to the CPMA for a federal betting permit. Betting permits are granted on an annual basis. The CPMA also operates the national Equine Drug Control Program that is designed to deter the uncontrolled use of drugs or medication in racehorses participating in pari-mutuel races. Website: <http://bit.ly/1FLGDfm>

**Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)** | The AGCO is responsible for all of the licensing, officiating, investigations and inspections activities previously carried out by the Ontario Racing Commission. As required under the CPMA Regulations, the AGCO oversees the province's racetracks and teletheatres at which any form of horse racing is carried on or televised, all forms of licensing (including conditions put on licences), and the appointment of racetrack officials and other persons whose duties relate to the actual running of horse races. It also establishes and enforces the *Rules of Racing*. The core horse racing regulatory functions of the AGCO are:

- **Licensing** | The AGCO issues licences to individuals and businesses involved in the horse racing industry. A large part of the licensing function is performed at each track facility. The licensing process includes applications from new racetrack owners, teletheatre locations and individuals involved in the industry (i.e. grooms, trainers, vets, jockeys, etc.), in addition to annual renewals and ongoing assessments of existing licensees.
- **Regulation of Racetracks** | In the public interest, the AGCO annually licenses racetracks, reviews racetrack business and fire safety plans, as well as backstretch and health and safety improvements. The AGCO is responsible for approving all race dates applied for by racetracks, along with any requested changes to the approved race date calendar.
- **Officiating** | The AGCO provides Race Officials (e.g. Judges and Stewards) to supervise races conducted at Ontario's licensed racetracks. These officials are responsible for the enforcement of the *Rules of Racing*, gather information with respect to alleged rule violations, conduct reviews of regulatory matters and issue Rulings as required.
- **Investigations** | The AGCO's Investigation and Enforcement Bureau is responsible for investigations of more serious

racetrack violations such as fraud and hidden ownerships, eligibility reviews on licence applicants or licensees, investigations into illegal gambling activities, allegations of horse abuse, race fixing or other racing and rule infractions. It also investigates horse deaths, monitors and enforces equine medication control programs, liaises between the AGCO, the police community and other civilian regulatory bodies in and out of Ontario, and enforces the Judges/Stewards' Rulings.

- **Compliance** | This function is performed by investigators, inspectors and/or compliance officers and includes administering the Human Alcohol and Drug Program, searching for prohibited items (drugs/syringes) and enforcing racetrack security standards.

**Equine Guelph** | Equine Guelph is the horse owner's Centre at the University of Guelph, supported and overseen by equine industry groups. It is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of horses by conducting research into diseases and common problems in horses and communicating these findings to both the scientific community and the equine industry. For horse owners and their caretakers, Equine Guelph provides a wealth of tools and information, as well as offering an extensive catalogue of webinars, workshops and online courses.

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

**Horse Racing Appeal Panel (HRAP)** | Unless expressly prohibited, all rulings or decisions made by stewards, judges, veterinarians, racetrack officials, racing association officials, licensing agents or officers or employees of the Commission, pursuant to the *Rules of Racing 2016*, are appealable to HRAP.

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

**Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT)** | Appeals of licensing decisions of the Registrar made pursuant to the *Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015* are heard by the Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT).

Website: [www.sse.gov.on.ca/lat/english/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/lat/english/Pages/default.aspx)

**Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG)** | OLG's Horse Racing division supports racetracks by administering funding for purses and operational costs as set out in the Transfer Payment Agreements (TPAs) that the Ontario government has with racetracks. In 2016-17, OLG distributed approximately \$93 million to support close to 950 race dates.

Website: [www.about.olg.ca/horse-racing-landing](http://www.about.olg.ca/horse-racing-landing)

**Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)** | OMAFRA is responsible for administering the Enhanced Horse Improvement Program that supports the breeding of high-quality Ontario racehorses and has responsibilities in the area of non-regulatory racehorse welfare.

Website: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

**Ontario Racing Association (OR)** | In April 2016, OR assumed responsibility for the functions previously carried out by the Ontario Horse Racing division of the ORC. OR is responsible for setting an annual program of races and purses, attracting new horse owners, building a fan base and connecting the industry with government and the general public. This association serves as the voice of the horse racing industry and works closely with the OLG towards the integration of horse racing into OLG's gaming strategy. Responsible for directing the breed improvement programs in Ontario, OR serves as the Program Administrator for the Standardbred (SIP) and Thoroughbred (TIP) Horse Improvement Program components of Ontario's Horse Improvement Program (HIP) as well as the Quarter Horse Racing Industry Development Program (QHRIDP). Website:

[www.ontarioracing.com](http://www.ontarioracing.com)

## 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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**DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS**



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