# Meadowlands Amateur Drivers Club Guidelines

UPDATED: May 4, 2026

The Meadowlands Amateur Drivers Club ("MADC") intends for these guidelines to offer general direction on how the Club operates. These guidelines do not restrict the MADC from taking any actions its Board of Directors, the Racing Secretary, or any appointed committee deems appropriate and in the best interest of the MADC. Nothing in these guidelines should be interpreted as to restrict actions taken by the aforementioned Club managers, as circumstances arise, in the best interest of the MADC.

The goal of the MADC is to provide fair, competitive, and safe racing opportunities for recreational (non-professional) drivers, who are licensed and safe, to race at The Meadowlands, while providing The Meadowlands with competitive races with full fields that bettors demonstrate their approval of through wagering. Drivers who are not currently paid to drive horses they do not own, and who have not accepted compensation for driving in a race in over ten years and who have not won 100 races or more where they were paid to drive, are welcome to apply for membership and will be reviewed for acceptance at the discretion of the MADC, the judges at The Meadowlands and the General Manager (or designee) prior to being allowed to enter.

All funds raised by the MADC assist 501c(3) charities chosen by the MADC Board of Directors ("BOD"). The MADC does not make donations to individuals or non-501c(3) charities nor to individuals without approval from a vote naming the individual by the MADC Board of Directors.

**1.** There are no dues to join the MADC.

a. New Drivers must submit an application for MADC membership.

i. The MADC BOD shall have a three-person quorum and meet as needed to review and approve new members by a majority vote. The Committee shall maintain a list of all approved Drivers.

ii. Drivers must also be approved by the judges at The Meadowlands and by the General Manager (or designee) prior to being allowed to enter.

iii. If a driver won races driving horses the driver was listed as the sole owner of, those wins are not counted nor is any driver pay. The MADC view is that you cannot pay yourself.

b. Drivers must have an “A” or “P” license.

i. “Q” and “F” and “CD” are not accepted (unless approved by the President).

ii. Drivers must drive at least 3 qualifiers at The Meadowlands if you have either

1) less than 50 pari-mutuel starts lifetime OR

2) if you have not driven at least 8 pari-mutuel races in 2 years prior to applying for Membership in the MADC

**2.** Drivers must not accept money or any form of financial or other consideration for driving at any track while members of the MADC.

**3.** When a driver competes in a non-Amateur race and is paid, the driver is responsible for donating that money to either (1) The Meadowlands Racetrack or (2) to The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, within 45 days of the date of the race.

a. No other donation venue is acceptable for these donations.

i. To comply, drivers can either leave a check payable to “The Meadowlands Racetrack” with the Meadowlands Horsemen’s bookkeeper, or, mail a check payable to “The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame” Attn: Donations, 240 Main Street, Goshen, New York 10924.

1) The Meadowlands will add these funds to the other funds collected for donations, unless funds go directly to the Hall of Fame.

ii. If a driver fails to deliver a check to The Meadowlands Horsemen’s bookkeeper or the Hall of Fame by the 45th day after the race they earned the money in, they are no longer eligible to drive in MADC races.

1) Example: On March 31st a Club Member earns $40 for a drive at a track that pays amateur drivers competing in pro races.

2) By May 15th the driver must have either:

a) Delivered a check for $40 to The Meadowlands Horsemen’s bookkeeper, payable to “The Meadowlands Racetrack” or delivered a check to the Hall of Fame.

b) Failure to comply with this rule will result in membership in the MADC ending.

b. Drivers cannot be paid in cash or by any other means and cannot solicit any payments or any other valuable consideration from an owner or trainer.

i. If the MADC finds a driver:

a) has not disclosed being paid in cash without donating as provided in this section; or

b) engaging in solicitation of compensation for driving in an amateur race, the driver will be suspended for a period of time determined by the president upon recommendation from the BOD for up to one year. The Board of Directors may impose or modify suspensions for any period of time when it meets. The suspension includes owning, driving or training in the MADC. Suspensions will be reported to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.

c. Additional Ineligible drivers: Effective 1/1/2026: if a driver has driven horses that they are not listed as at least a part owner of in 15 “regular professional races” in a 90-day period, they are temporarily suspended from driving in the MADC Club.

i. The length of suspension is 90 days starting the day after the 15th drive or the first day after any drives that cannot be changed without an on-track announcement.

ii. For the purposes of this rule, “Regular professional races” are defined as:

1) races not restricted to unpaid drivers

2) races not for celebratory or promotional purposes, for example, the MLK races or a “lady drivers only” race.

**4.** A driver receiving any length suspension, or a fine greater than $299, in an MADC race will NOT be permitted to race in an MADC race on the next weekend not yet drawn that offers a MADC race, regardless of whether the suspension imposed by the Judges has expired prior to such MADC Club race(s).

a. A driver going a 2nd quarter that is 3 seconds slower, or more, than the first quarter, on a night where the race is not charted with an allowance, as published on the results posted on ustrotting.com, is suspended for the following week. The allowance is the “Temp-Allow” field below and is zero in this example. If this is 1 or greater, the rule does not apply.

i. This suspension is NOT additive in cases where the driver is already missing the next weekend due to a fine or suspension imposed by the judges.

b. Drivers may handle any fine/suspension with the judges in the manner they, individually, deem appropriate, and interactions between drivers and judges regarding fines and suspensions imposed are not the domain of the MADC.

**5.** The MADC has its own "Safety Committee." The members of the committee are appointed by the Board of Directors.

a. The Safety Committee may issue recommendations for suspensions to the president for a period of up to two (2) consecutive weekends from MADC races when it meets as a quorum of at least three members and with a majority vote. The president may accept or deny the recommendation. A suspension imposed is not appealable. The Safety Committee will report all suspensions imposed and their length to the Board of Directors within one day and prepare a report of all recommended suspensions, whether accepted or denied, for each Board of Directors meeting related to the current year. The Board of Directors may impose or modify suspensions for any period of time when it meets.

6. Any horse that wins two or more MADC races in a row will be assigned the outside post in its next MADC Club start.

a. This applies even if there is/are a non-MADC start(s) in between the MADC wins.

b. When warranted, and at the sole discretion of the race secretary, entries (horses and/or driver) may be refused and/or post positions may be assigned or handicapped.

c. Horses that win three races in a row are ineligible for next week.

d. The Meadowlands Race Secretary has the discretion to not accept entries for a particular horse in MADC races even if the horse is qualified to race at The Meadowlands in "pro races."

7. MADC uses its own purse distribution system. Purses are distributed to include 4% minimum payment to all starters.

a. When less than ten starters, the purse distribution changes.

b. These are the percentage payouts to the first five finishers depending on the number of starters in the race:

i. 10 horses: 40-20-9-6-5

ii. 9 horses: 43-20-9-7-5

iii. 8 horses: 44-22-10-7-5

iv. 7 horses: 46-23-11-7-5

v. 6 horses: 48-24-11-8-5

**8.** Race conditions for the MADC will be published on the Condition Sheet.

a. Note: Earnings allowances are based on purse distribution for full fields (10 at M1).

i. If a horse goes over an allowance because of additional earnings won in race with less than a full field, the horse will be allowed to enter and is considered eligible.

ii. If a horse, in its first MADC start, earns money for finishing 6th through 10th, that money shall not make the horse ineligible to the MADC in that horse's following start. This exception may be used only once per horse.

b. Horses that finished 1st or 2nd in the MADC2 in either of their last two MADC2 starts are ineligible to drop to the MADC1 unless authorized by the Race Secretary.

c. For Trot races, the MADC Club accepts starts in NAADA, AHDC and Billings races as "amateur starts" for inclusion in allowance calculations.

d. For Pace races, the MADC only accepts starts in MADC races if The Meadowlands is open and racing amateur races.

e. When the MADC is not racing pacers, the MADC accepts starts in other amateur races at the sole discretion of the Race Secretary.

f. Minimum standards for entries may be imposed at the discretion of the Race Secretary.

i. Restrictions in effect will be published on the Condition Sheet in the top section.

9. Additional Conditions affecting the eligibility of 15-year-old horses in all MADC races:

a. Any horse that was placed on the Steward's List (aka "Vet's List") for any type of lameness or atrial fibrillation ("a-fib") during its 14-year-old season is not eligible to race as a 15-year-old.

b. Additionally, a 15-year-old horse that is placed on the Steward's List (aka "Vet's List") for any type of lameness or atrial fibrillation ("a-fib") during its 15-year-old season is no longer eligible to race.

c. 15-year-old horses are limited to a maximum of 3 starts in a calendar month.

d. 15-year-old horses are limited to maximum purse earnings of

$25,000 during their 15-year-old year after which they are no longer eligible to race.

e. 15-year-old horses may be declared ineligible at any time at the discretion of the Race Secretary.

10. Horses entered to be driven by their owner, and that are 100% owned by MADC Members, are given first entry preference, unless the horse is entered late or is in-to-go after the time entries for the MADC close. In such a case, the horse's preference date is the date of that race.

a. Horses owned by the driver in partnership with others, where the driver is listed first on the ownership, are granted preference after horses owned 100% by Club Members.

b. Owner Driver Preference is limited to 50% of the entries. After 50%, entries follow the same entry preferences as pro races at The Meadowlands.

c. During certain months, the Club may impose additional restrictions on Owner Driver preference. These restrictions may include, among any other restrictions the Club deems prudent, the following:

i. Limiting preference to one horse per member

ii. Delaying preference 30 days after ownership transfer, if transfer was not via Claim

iii. Restrictions in effect will be published in the top section of the Condition Sheet.