Racing Rules & Regulations

The Meadowlands – Tioga Downs – Vernon Downs
(Referred to as "The Racetracks" for purpose of these rules)

The Rules of Racing are in effect at the time any race is raced. These rules shall govern the racing, and all entries are accepted only with the understanding and on the agreement of the applicant that the Rules of Racing shall govern.

The Racetracks reserve the right under the racetrack owners "right of exclusion" at any time to deny admission to any

part or parts of the properties to an applicant or any agent acting on his/her behalf.

The Racetracks reserve the right under the racetrack owners "right of exclusion" to deny entry into any race, overnight or paid-in event. This includes races upon which payment has been made at any time up to and including time of declaration for that race with no promise of refund of those payments.

The Racetracks reserve the right to cancel any race, including both overnight and paid-in events, if the number of nominations/declarations does not meet a minimum requirement set by the track up to and including time of declaration for that race.

The Racetracks reserve the right to a lifetime exclusion from the properties for any person found to be falsely representing themselves to be the trainer of any horse(s) AKA "Bearding".

Those rights listed above apply to all participants, patrons, employees, and/or any persons and/or horses under their control. Nothing in these rules and regulations shall in any way limit other rights, which The Racetracks may have.

It is a privilege to participate at The Racetracks. Any conduct determined by management, in its sole and absolute discretion, to have an adverse effect on the sport of horse racing or not to be in the best interests of the sport of horse racing, may result in the imposition of a penalty in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.

Any horse nominated to any stakes/event as well as the Nominator shall be bound by all Articles in the Conditions for that stake/event.

The Racetracks, at their sole discretion as to what it determines to be in the best interest of the races, reserves the right to refuse the participation of any entry or proposed entry. Any horse owned or trained by an owner or trainer who is arrested, indicted or is the subject of a filed governmental criminal information charging such person with administering, selling, sponsoring, or encouraging the sale or use of illegal medications or the illegal or unethical treatment of animals will be ineligible to race in any of the races owned or serviced by The Racetracks. Such ineligibility shall commence on the date of such arrest, indictment or information and continue for a minimum of 60 days from the time of the transfer of ownership of the horse and/or the change of trainers to a bona fide separate and unrelated licensed owner or trainer.

All stakes/events at The Racetracks are subject to the Stallion Restriction Rule (see track websites for details). Any/all health-related policies as required by the State and/or The Racetracks must be followed explicitly.

These Rules and Regulations shall always apply to all The Racetracks' premises, including both the frontside & backstretch area, and to all individuals using these areas without limitation, either as applicants, residents, party(s) to a contract with The Racetracks, or in any other capacity whatsoever. The Racetracks reserve the right to alter or amend these Rules and Regulations without notice, at any time as deemed necessary.

Breach of the Rules:

A breach of any of the rules and regulations or policies of The Racetracks may result in a loss of privileges, loss of any or all fees and/or eviction from the premises. Any person having knowledge that a breach of any of the rules and regulations or policies of The Racetracks has been committed must immediately report such breach to a security officer, stable area superintendent, track superintendent, staff sergeant or any other employee.

Failure to comply with these conditions may result in any agreement created by the acceptance of any stakes payment to be declared void at the discretion of The Racetracks rendering the horse(s) in question ineligible to race in those stakes/events with no liability to The Racetracks and no assurance of a refund of payments previously made to the stake/event in question.

It is the goal of The Racetracks to provide a level playing field for all participants and a race product that is beyond reproach.

REGULATORY

1. A Racing Application must be completed and signed before entries will be accepted at any of The Racetracks. All conditions within that application apply in concert with these Rules.
2. Upon accepting the right to participate at The Racetracks each trainer agrees to accept full responsibility for the care and welfare of the horses in his/her custody.
3. Each trainer also agrees not to act as a program trainer for or otherwise train or enter any horse in a race for or act in the capacity of any other trainer or owner who is not properly licensed and approved to participate at The Racetracks.
4. All personnel must be licensed by the applicable State Racing Governing body. Each trainer agrees not to employ an individual who is not properly licensed or is under suspension in any jurisdiction under any circumstance.
5. Trainers are responsible for providing Worker's Compensation insurance in those states where required and following all procedures as required by applicable State regulations.
6. All personnel will be subject to applicable State law and all rules and security policies in place while stabled at The Racetracks and/or competing in The Racetrack's events.
7. All horses entering and leaving the stable area must be properly checked at the stable gate with the required paperwork submitted and in order.
8. Persons entering the stable area must possess proper credentials to be admitted by the security representative at the stable gate. Identification must be produced if requested.
9. If required by State rules a photo ID badge must be issued by The Racetracks and must be always worn and visible while in the stable area and paddock.
10. Guest passes may be available. Contact Racing Office for details at each track. Guest must always remain in the company of the licensed individual signing for the guest pass.
11. All personnel entering and leaving the stable area of The Racetracks are subject to search and seizure, extending to their person, horses, and vehicle.
12. All persons using the facilities will abide by the lawful direction of racetrack security personnel.
13. Use of main track hours will be posted at each of The Racetracks.
14. State & Racetrack rules prohibit all race day medication other than Lasix.
15. A veterinarian designated by the State, or The Racetracks will administer Lasix. The times and location will be posted.
16. The Racetracks prohibit possession of any veterinary medication and/or apparatus to introduce such by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian or vet assistant.
17. Milk-shaking and any apparatus to perform milk-shaking are prohibited.
18. Trainers and owners are required to comply with pre- and post-race blood gas testing procedures and out-of-competition hair sample testing and/or all forms of blood testing.
19. Any horse declared to race may be tested for any medication or prohibited substance at the discretion of The Racetracks and/or the State administrators at any time. If the tests are conducted by the racetrack and the sample tests positively for a banned substance, the trainer and/or owner will be held liable for the cost of the testing procedure.

20. Any trainer whose horse tests as positive for an ARCI Class 1 or 2 drug at The Racetracks may be excluded immediately.
21. Any horse testing positive may be excluded from participating at The Racetracks for a period to be determined by The Racetracks.
22. Any horse that tests positive for any prohibited drug may be required to stable the grounds and race out of detention as a condition of continued right to participate.
23. Any and/or all races and/or horses may be subject to 24-hour detention at the discretion of the racetracks.
24. At the discretion of The Racetracks any trainer or owner may be required to stable their horses on the grounds as a condition to participate.
25. Horses stabled at The Racetracks may not be removed from the grounds on the day they are entered to race.

RACING

1. Those horses racing at The Meadowlands, Tioga Downs or Vernon Downs must meet the qualifying standards listed on the condition sheet for overnight races and meet the qualifying standards as listed in the conditions for stakes races.
2. All horses declared to race must have a racing application on file, Electronic Eligibility, a negative Coggins Test within the required time frame, and any other documents and/or certificates required by State rules or The Racetracks.
3. The Racetracks reserve the right to cancel any Race, upon repayment of fees as stated in the stakes conditions, if any; and/or change the time and/or place of any Race.
4. The Racetracks reserve the right to carry any event over one race day with the permission of the Presiding Judge.
5. If any unforeseeable event prevents the racing of any or all added money events, paid-in monies shall be refunded as stated in the conditions of the race. All fees and purses are in US Funds.
6. Race distance and field size shall be as determined by the Director of Racing as he sees fit for any/all events.
7. Any change of trainers made fewer than 30 days or within four starts of the date of a stakes race will be reviewed by the sponsor. If such change is not accepted, it may result in refusal of entry.
8. The Stallion Restriction Condition is applicable as included in Stakes Conditions.
9. The Racetracks reserve the right to deny stall space, reject any entry, change the program order, place improperly declared horses in correct classes and declare off any race that does not fill.
10. No medication is permitted in the paddock.
11. The use of cellular phones in the paddock shall be governed by State rule.
12. The Racetracks reserve the right to require drivers to apply for approval to race in stakes or overnight races.
13. Drivers agree to adhere to the Rules & Policies provided to them as necessary by The Racetracks and/or Presiding Judge.
14. There is a zero-tolerance policy on “kicking” at The Racetracks.
15. “Courtesy tucks” or opening a hole during a race for the purpose of allowing a horse to drop along the rail when that horse would otherwise remain parked on the outside is prohibited.
16. Drivers are required to wear colors with clean white pants or a professional training suit along with driving boots & pant clips in qualifying races.
    Colors, clean white pants and driving boots with pant clips are required for warming up horses for the race cards.
17. Helmets must be worn with the chin strap buckled at all times while on the racetrack.

STABLING/BARN AREA

1. Horses shall always have the right of way in the stable area.
2. Any person operating a motorized vehicle must have a state issued operator's license.
3. Any motorized vehicle in the stable area must have state registration as required by law.
4. Motorcycles are not permitted in the stable area.
5. Posted speed limits must be always observed.
6. All vehicles must be parked in designated areas.
7. Horse trailers must be parked where indicated.
8. Horse manure must be deposited in the bins provided and the area kept clean.
9. Garbage is to be placed in proper receptacle and is not to be thrown into manure bins.
10. Under no circumstances shall refuse from off the grounds to be dumped at the racetrack.
11. The use of portable paddocks in the stable area is prohibited.
12. Trainers are responsible to ensure that Fire Prevention rules are followed.
13. "Hot Shoeing" in the barns is prohibited.
14. Smoking in any area of The Racetracks may be prohibited.
15. All appliances for cooking are prohibited.
16. Oil-filled radiators are the only approved heating appliances.
17. Combustible liquids must be stored outside the barns in approved containers.
18. Firearms are prohibited.
19. Any electrical device must be plugged directly into an outlet and have UL approval tags visibly attached to the appliance or cord.
20. Extension cords must be UL approved and may not be left unattended.
21. Electrical panels and/or power sources and fire extinguishers must be made readily available to access.
22. Doors to tack rooms where these devices are installed must remain unlocked and a 36-inch clear area around these devices must be maintained.
23. Alcohol consumption and the possession and/or use of controlled substances in the stable area are prohibited. Exceptions may be made for those in the care of a physician with a prescription.
24. No dogs may be permitted in the stable area without express permission.
25. Living in the barns is prohibited.
26. Tack rooms are to be used for equipment storing only.
27. Groom's quarters at Vernon Downs are subject to all safety, security, and search & seizure policies. Dormitory residents are responsible for the condition of their assigned room.
28. Trainers are responsible for informing the security office of any change in their staff.
29. The Racetracks are not liable and assume no responsibility for loss by fire, theft, or accident of or to persons, animals, equipment, or vehicles owned, leased, or controlled by any or all of the foregoing.
30. Use of the grounds, track or facilities owned by The Racetracks is at the risk of the party or parties responsible for entries and is assumed by those individuals.
31. Applicant agrees to vacate stall and move all horses, equipment, and personnel off the premises within 48 hours of notice to do so.
32. Multi-page (copies for the recipient, security office, race office and VP of Racing) summons may be issued to individuals who violate these policies. Continued violations will result in a loss of privileges. The individuals will have the opportunity to plead their case before security representatives and the VP of Racing.

Any violation of these rules may result in the scratch of any horse in question, fines, suspension and/or expulsion. Any action taken to implement or enforce these track rules, or in furtherance thereof, shall be without any liability to the racetracks and/or its employees.