

Meadowlands Amateur Drivers Club Guidelines

UPDATED: February 9, 2024

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, are welcome to apply for membership and will be reviewed for acceptance at the sole discretion of the MADC.

All funds raised by the MADC assist 501c(3) charities chosen by the MADC Board of Directors. The MADC does not make donations to individuals or non-501c(3) charities nor to individuals.

1. Starting in 2024 there will no longer be dues to join the MADC.
 - a. Drivers must submit an application for MADC membership.
 - i. The MADC Membership Committee 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 and turned down Drivers and submit to the Board of Directors at each regular meeting.
 - ii. Once approved by the Membership Committee, the Drivers must also be approved by The Meadowlands (General Manager or designee) prior to being allowed to enter each race.
 - b. Drivers must have an "A" or "P" license.
 - i. "Q" and "F" and "CD" are not accepted.

- ii. A new driver applicant with a "P" Provisional license ("P"), who has less than 50 pari-mutuel starts lifetime, must have 12 satisfactory pari-mutuel starts within the 6 months prior to becoming a member of the MADC. All other required approvals remain in place (Presiding Judge Tom Salerno and Meadowlands management).
 - iii. A new driver applicant with at least 50 lifetime pari-mutuel starts must have 6 satisfactory pari-mutuel starts within the last 6 months prior to becoming a member of the MADC. All other required approvals remain in place (Presiding Judge Tom Salerno and Meadowlands management). All Drivers must be approved by the Presiding Judge (currently Tom Salerno).
- 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 within 45 days of the date of the race.
 - i. To comply, drivers can either leave a check payable to "The Meadowlands Racetrack" with the Meadowlands Horsemen's bookkeeper, or, after the date of the race, make a donation for the exact amount to an "Approved Charity" charity operating under Section 501c(3) of the tax code and submit that receipt to the Meadowlands Horsemen's bookkeeper.
 - 1. The Meadowlands will add these funds to the other funds collected for donations.
 - 2. Any questions on what organizations qualify as an "Approved Charity" should be directed to the Membership Committee. Members can also search the IRS website for approved 501c(3) charities at <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/taxexempt-organization-search>
 - ii. If a driver fails to deliver a check or accepted payment receipt to The Meadowlands Horsemen's bookkeeper 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"
 - b. Made an online donation to, for example, an approved charity such as The American Cancer Society, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (APSCA), The American Heart Association, SRF, Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program or New Vocations (all are Approved Charities) and deliver the receipt to the Meadowlands Horsemen's bookkeeper.
 - c. Failure to comply with this rule will result in being suspended from the MADC until compliance is submitted.
- 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 Membership Committee 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. New Driver Applicants must not have accepted money, or other valuable consideration, for driving within the last ten years prior to applying for membership.
 - i. If an applicant has been paid, then, under certain circumstances (each driver is reviewed individually) drivers may be allowed to donate the amount of money they were paid for driving to effectively clear past earnings.
 - ii. Each applicant for membership is reviewed by the MADC and is evaluated individually.

- iii. Additionally, membership in the MADC may be denied based upon the past professional success of an applicant, regardless of their driving in the last ten years.
 - iv. When calculating the money required for donation by a new applicant for membership, if the applicant has been paid for drives in the last 10 years, the MADC does not count the 5% driver's commission for horses the applicant was listed as the sole owner of (or in partnership with a spouse, child or parent) on the race date they were paid for driving.
 - d. Additional Ineligible drivers: 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 ineligible to drive in the MADC Club.
 - i. The length of ineligibility is 90 days, which may start as soon as the day after the 15th drive. The driver will be notified first, before the 90 days begins.
 - 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. Any driver receiving any length suspension, or a fine greater than \$300, in an MADC race will NOT be permitted to race in an MADC race on the next card 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. 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.
 1. Note: Earnings allowances are based on purse distribution for full fields (10 at M1).
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 2. 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.

3. For Trot races, the MADC Club accepts starts in NAADA, AHDC and Billings races as "amateur starts" for inclusion in allowance calculations.
 4. For Pace races, the MADC only accepts starts in MADC races if The Meadowlands is open and racing amateur races.
 - a. When the MADC is not racing pacers, the MADC accepts starts in other amateur races at the sole discretion of the Race Secretary.
 5. Minimum standards for entries may be imposed at the discretion of the Race Secretary.
 - a. 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 or by the driver in partnership with a spouse, child or parent are granted this entry preference.
 - b. Horses 100% owned by Club Members who are not driving the horse are given 2nd preference for entry, after all horses entered to be driven by their owner.
 - c. Horses partially owned by a MADC Member, in partnership with a non-Member, are in the 2nd preference group.

- d. 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. In cases of multiple owners, requiring the member to be the first owner listed
 - iv. Restrictions in effect will be published in the top section of the Condition Sheet.