

CHAPTER 20.
RACING OFFICIALS AND RACING PERSONNEL

3A O.S., § 204(A)

325:20-1-1. Purpose

The rules in this Chapter establish and describe the requirements and procedures concerning Racing Officials and Commission racing personnel, including authority, duties, responsibilities, and standards for the Commission, Racing Officials, racing personnel, and the organization licensee pursuant to the Oklahoma Horse Racing Act, 3A O.S., §§ 203.4, 203.5, 203.7, 204, 204.2, 205.2, and 205.4.

325:20-1-2. Definitions

In addition to the definitions provided in Section 200.1 of Title 3A, of the Oklahoma Statutes, the following words or terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Act" means the Oklahoma Horse Racing Act [3A:200 et seq.]

"Commissioner" means a member of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission.

"Day" means a 24-hour period ending at midnight.

"Declaration" means the act of withdrawing an entered horse from a race before the closing of entries.

"Draw" means the process of publicly assigning post positions and selecting contestants in a manner to insure compliance with the conditions of the rules of racing.

"Entry" means:

(A) A horse eligible for and entered in a race.

(B) Two (2) or more horses entered in the same race which have common ties of ownership, lease, or training.

"Horse" means:

(A) any equine including and designated as mare, filly, stallion, colt, ridgeling, or gelding registered for racing;

(B) an entire equine male five years of age and older.

"Inquiry" means:

(A) an investigation by the Stewards of potential interference in a contest prior to declaring the result of said contest official; or

(B) the Stewards or Commission investigation of a matter alleged to be related to the provisions of the Act or the rules of the Commission.

"Jockey" means a rider licensed to race.

"No contest" means a race canceled for any reason by the Stewards.

"Occupation license" means a state requirement for any person acting in any capacity pursuant to provisions of the Act.

"Organization license" means a state requirement for any person desiring to conduct a race meeting in

Oklahoma within the minimum standards as required by the Act and the rules of the Commission.

"Post position" means the position in the starting gate assigned to the horse for the start of the race.

"Post time" means the scheduled time set for the arrival of the horses at the starting gate for the race.

"Program" means the published listing of all contests and contestants for a specific performance.

"Race" means a contest between horses.

"Race day" means a day during a race meeting when pari-mutuel wagering occurs on live races conducted at that racetrack.

"Restricted area" means any area within the enclosure where access is limited to licensees whose occupation requires access. Those areas which are restricted shall include but not be limited to the barn area, paddock, test barn, Stewards' tower, racecourse, mutuel line and money rooms, or any other area designated restricted by the organization licensee the Commission, or both. Signs giving notice of restricted access shall be prominently displayed at all entry points.

"Rules" means the rules adopted by the Commission to implement the provisions of the Act.

"Scratch" means the act of withdrawing an entered horse from a race after the closing of entries.

"Scratch time" means the deadline for withdrawal of entries after the closing of entries.

"Trainer" means a person qualified and licensed by the Commission as a Trainer.

"Weigh in" means the presentation of a jockey to the clerk of scales for weighing after a race.

"Weigh out" means the presentation of a jockey to the clerk of scales for weighing prior to a race.

"Year" means a calendar year.

75 O.S., §§ 302, 305, and 307; 3A O.S. § 200.1(B)
[Source: Amended at 16 Ok Reg 2869, eff 7-12-99]

325:20-1-3. Racing Officials

The Racing Officials of a race meeting, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, are as follows: the Stewards, the Associate Judge, the Placing Judges (if utilized), the Paddock Judge, the Patrol Judges (if utilized), the Starter, the Clerk of Scales, the Official Veterinarian, the Racing Veterinarian, the Timers, the Horse Identifier, and the Racing Secretary. No Racing Official may serve in that capacity during any race meeting at which is entered a horse owned by him/her or by a member of his/her family or in which s/he has any financial interest. Being the lessee or lessor of a horse shall be construed as having a financial interest. No person may serve as a Steward in a race where that person is the owner or part owner of the sire or dam of any horse in the race.

325:20-1-4. Responsibility to the Commission

The Racing Officials are strictly responsible to the

Commission for the performance of their respective duties, and they shall promptly report to the Commission or its Stewards any violation of the rules and regulations of the Commission coming to their attention or of which they have knowledge. Any Racing Official who fails to exercise due diligence in the performance of his/her duties shall be relieved of his/her duties by the Stewards and the matter referred to the Commission.

325:20-1-5. Racing Officials Subject to Approval

Every Racing Official is subject to prior approval by the Commission before being eligible to act as a Racing Official at the meeting. At the time of making application for an organization license, the organization shall nominate the Racing Officials other than the Racing Officials appointed by the Commission; and after issuance of the organization license, there shall be no substitution of any Racing Official except with approval of the Stewards or the Commission.

325:20-1-6. Racing Officials appointed by the Commission

The Commission shall appoint the following Racing Officials for a race meeting [3A:203.4]:

- (1) Board of three (3) Stewards;
- (2) Official Veterinarian;
- (3) Certified Veterinarian Technician; and
- (4) Horse Identifier.

{Source: Amended at 14 Ok Reg 2932, eff 7-11-97-10-10-97}

325:20-1-7. Racing Personnel Employed by the Commission

The Commission shall employ the services of the occupation licensing personnel for a race meeting.

325:20-1-8. General Authority of Stewards

The Stewards have general authority and supervision over all licensees and other persons attendant on horses, and also over the enclosures of any recognized meeting. Stewards have the power to interpret the rules and to decide all questions not specifically covered by these rules. The Stewards shall have the power to determine all questions arising with reference to entries, eligibility and racing; and all entries, declarations and scratches shall be under the supervision of the Stewards. The Stewards are strictly responsible to the Commission for the conduct of the race meeting in every particular.

325:20-1-9. Vacancy Among Racing Officials

Where a vacancy occurs among the Racing Officials, the Stewards shall fill the vacancy immediately. Such appointment is effective until the vacancy is filled in accordance with the rules in this Chapter.

325:20-1-10. Calling off Race or Race Day

When in the opinion of the Stewards or the Commission Executive Director, a race(s) or race day cannot be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act, rules of this Title, and orders of the Commission or the conditions of an organization license, they shall cancel and call off such race(s) or race day. In the event of mechanical failure or interference during the running of a race which affects the horses in such race, the Stewards may declare the race a "no contest". A race shall be declared "no contest" if no horse covers the course.

325:20-1-11. Substitution of Jockey or Trainer

(a) In the event a Jockey who is named to ride a mount in a race is unable to fulfill his/her engagement and is excused by the Stewards, the Trainer of the horse may select a substitute Jockey; or, if no substitute Jockey is available, the Stewards may scratch the horse from the race. However, the responsibility to provide a Jockey for an entered horse remains with the Trainer; and the scratching of said horse by the Stewards shall not be grounds for the refund of any nomination, sustaining, penalty payments, or entry fees.

(b) In the absence of the Trainer of the horse, the Stewards may place the horse in the temporary care of another Trainer of their selection; however, such horse may not be entered or compete in a race without the approval of the Owner and the substitute Trainer. The substitute Trainer must sign the entry card.

325:20-1-12. Stewards' List

The Stewards shall maintain a Stewards' List of those horses which, in their opinion, are ineligible to be entered in any race because of poor or inconsistent performance due to the inability to maintain a straight course, or for any other reason considered a hazard to the safety of the participants. Such horse shall be refused entry until it has demonstrated to the Stewards or their representatives that it can race safely and can be removed from the Stewards' List.

325:20-1-13. Duties of the Starter

The Starter shall have complete jurisdiction over the starting gate, the starting of horses, and the authority to give orders not in conflict with the provisions of the Act and the rules in this Title as may be required to ensure all participants an equal opportunity to a fair start. The Starter shall appoint his/her assistants; however, s/he shall not permit his/her assistants to handle or take charge of any horse in the starting gate without his/her expressed permission. In the event that organization starter assistants are unavailable to head a horse, the responsibility to provide qualified individuals to head and/or tail a horse in the starting gate shall rest with the Trainer. The Starter shall establish qualifications for and maintain a list of such qualified individuals approved by

the Stewards. No Assistant Starter or any individual handling a horse at the starting gate shall in any way impede, whether intentionally or otherwise, the start of the race; nor may an Assistant Starter or other individual, except the Jockey handling the horse at the starting gate, apply a whip or other device in an attempt to load any horse in the starting gate. No one other than the Jockey shall slap, boot, or otherwise attempt to dispatch a horse from the starting gate.

325:20-1-14. Starter's List

The Starter shall maintain a Starter's List of all horses which, in his/her opinion, are ineligible to be entered in any race because of poor or inconsistent performance in the starting gate. Such schooling shall be under the direct supervision of the Starter or his/her representatives. Such horse shall be refused entry until it has demonstrated to the Starter or his/her representatives that it has been satisfactorily schooled in the gates and can be removed from the Starter's List.

325:20-1-15. Duties of the Paddock Judge

The Paddock Judge shall supervise the assembling of the horses scheduled to race, the saddling of horses in the paddock, the saddling equipment and changes thereof, the mounting of the jockeys, and their departure for the post. The Paddock Judge shall maintain a record of all the equipment utilized in the saddling of a horse, and shall provide a report on saddling equipment to the Stewards at their request.

325:20-1-16. Duties of Patrol Judges

The Patrol Judges, when utilized, shall be subject to the orders of the Stewards, and shall report to the Stewards all facts occurring under their observation during the running of a race.

325:20-1-17. Duties of Placing Judges and Timers

The Placing Judges, Timers, and/or Stewards shall occupy the Judges' or Stewards' Tower at the time the horses pass the finish line; and their duties shall be to hand time, place the horses in the correct order of finish, and report the results. In case of a dead heat or a disagreement as to the correct order of finish, the decision of the Stewards shall be final. In placing the horses at the finish, the position of the horses' noses only shall be considered the most forward point of progress.

325:20-1-18. Duties of the Clerk of Scales

The Clerk of Scales is responsible for the presence of all Jockeys in the Jockey's room at the appointed time and to verify that all jockeys have a current Oklahoma Jockey's license. The Clerk of Scales shall verify the correct weight of each Jockey at the time of weighing out and when weighing in, and shall report any discrepancies to the Stewards immediately. In addition, s/he shall be responsible for the security of the Jockey's room and the

conduct of the Jockeys and their attendants. He or she shall promptly report to the Stewards any alleged infraction of the Act or rules of this Title with respect to weight, weighing, riding equipment, or conduct. He or she shall be responsible for accounting of all data require on the scale sheet and submit that data to the Horsemen's Bookkeeper at the end of each race day. He or she shall maintain the record of applicable winning races on all Apprentice Certificates at the meeting; and at the close of the meeting, or on the departure of the Apprentice Jockeys, the Apprentice Certificates shall be released to them.

325:20-1-19. Duties of the Racing Secretary

The Racing Secretary shall write and publish conditions of all races and distribute them to horsemen as far in advance of the closing of entries as possible. He or she shall be responsible for the safekeeping of Registration Certificates and the return of same to the Trainers on request or at the conclusion of the race meeting. He or she shall record winning races on the form supplied by the breed registry, which shall remain attached to or part of the Registration Certificate. The Racing Secretary shall be responsible for the taking of entries, checking eligibility, closing of entries, selecting the races to be drawn, conducting the draw, posting the overnight sheet, compiling the official program, and discharging such other duties of their office as required by the rules of this Title or as directed by the Stewards.

325:20-1-20. Duties of Associate Judge

An Associate Judge shall be qualified to and may perform any of the duties which are performed by any Racing Official at a race meeting, provided such duties are assigned or delegated to them by the Commission or by the Stewards presiding at that race meeting.

325:20-1-21. Duties of the Official Veterinarian

The Official Veterinarian must be a graduate veterinarian and licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma. He or she shall recommend to the Stewards any horse that is deemed unsafe to be raced, or a horse that it would be inhumane to allow to race. He or she shall supervise the taking of all specimens for testing according to procedures approved by the Commission. He or she shall provide proper safeguards in the handling of all laboratory specimens to prevent tampering, confusion, or contamination. All specimens collected shall be sent in locked and sealed cases to the laboratory. He or she shall have the authority and jurisdiction to supervise the practicing licensed veterinarians within the enclosure. He or she shall report to the Commission the names of all horses humanely destroyed or which otherwise expire at the meeting and the reasons therefore. No Official Veterinarian shall directly treat or prescribe for any horse scheduled to participate during his/her term of appointment at any recognized meeting except in an

emergency or for the administration of a diuretic to facilitate the collection of a urine sample, either case of which shall be immediately reported to the Stewards. The Official Veterinarian shall place horses on the Veterinarian's List and may remove from the List those horses which, in his/her opinion, can satisfactorily compete in a race.

325:20-1-22. Duties of the Racing Veterinarian

The Racing Veterinarian must be a graduate veterinarian and licensed to practice in the State of Oklahoma. The Racing Veterinarian shall be present in the paddock on the racing course, and at the starting gate during the saddling, the parade, and until the horses are dispatched from the gate for the race; and shall examine any horse when there is a question as to the physical condition of such a horse. He or she shall report any horse, which in their opinion is incapable of physically exerting its best effort to win, to the Stewards, who may scratch such horse from the race. The Racing Veterinarian shall examine any horse which appears in physical distress during the race, at the finish of the race; and s/he shall report such horse together with their opinion as to the cause of the distress to the Stewards and to the Official Veterinarian. No Racing Veterinarian shall directly treat or prescribe for any horse scheduled to participate during their term of appointment at any recognized meeting except in an emergency. The Racing Veterinarian has the authority to treat any horse in the event of an emergency, accident or injury; and s/he is authorized to humanely destroy any horse which in their opinion is so seriously injured that it is in the best interests of racing to so act; and every horse owner and Trainer participating in Commission- licensed racing does consent to the humane destruction of such animal.

325:20-1-23. Veterinarian's List

The Official Veterinarian shall maintain a list of all horses who in their opinion are incapable of safely performing in a race and are, therefore, ineligible to be entered or started in a race. Such horse may be removed from the Veterinarian's List when in the opinion of the Official Veterinarian the horse has satisfactorily recovered the capability of performing in a race. The criteria for placing a horse on the Veterinarian's List shall include but not be limited to the shedding of blood from one or both nostrils following exercise or the performance in a race, and the running of a temperature unnatural to the horse.

325:20-1-24. Duties of the Horse Identifier

The Horse Identifier shall identify all horses starting in a race. The Horse Identifier shall inspect documents of ownership, eligibility, registration, or breeding as may be necessary to ensure proper identification of each horse eligible to compete at a race meeting and provide assistance to the Stewards in that regard. The Horse

Identifier shall immediately report to the Paddock Judge and the Stewards any horse which is not properly identified or any irregularities reflected in the official identification records. The Horse Identifier shall ensure that all horses are properly shod prior to departure for the post. The Horse Identifier shall check track facilities to ensure that they comply with Commission requirements. The Horse Identifier shall report to the Stewards and to the Commission on general racing practices observed, and perform such other duties as the Commission may require.