

CHAPTER 60.
RUNNING THE RACE

3A O.S., § 204(A)

325:60-1-1. Purpose

The rules of this Chapter describe the requirements and procedures for the supervision, responsibility, and conduct prescribed for participants concerning the running of a Commission-sanctioned horse race under the authorization and provisions of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Act, 3A O.S., § 200 et seq.

325:60-1-2. 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.]

"**Assistant trainer**" means a person qualified as and licensed by the Commission as an Assistant Trainer.

"**Authorized agent**" means a person licensed by the Commission and appointed by a written notarized affidavit by the Owner in whose behalf the Agent will act. Said affidavit must be on file with the Commission.

"**Bleeder**" means a horse which during or following exercise or the race is observed to be shedding blood from one or both nostrils, or the mouth, or hemorrhaging in the lumen of the respiratory tract.

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

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

"**Field**" means all horses competing in a race.

"**Foul**" means an action by any horse or Jockey that hinders or interferes with another horse or Jockey during the running of a race.

"**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.

"**Objection**" means:

(A) A written complaint made to the Stewards concerning a horse entered in a race and filed not later than two hours prior to the scheduled

post time for the first race on the day which the questioned horse is entered.

(B) A verbal claim of foul in a race lodged by the horse's Jockey, Trainer, Owner, or the Owner's licensed Authorized Agent before the race is declared official.

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

"**Official order of finish**" means the order of finish of the horses in a contest as declared official by the Stewards.

"**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.

"**Owner**" means any person who holds in whole or in part, any right, title or interest in a horse or an organization licensee or any person who is a lessee of a horse and has been duly issued a currently-valid Owner license as a person responsible for such horse.

"**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.

"**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.

"**Races**" mean:

(A) **Allowance.** An overnight race for which eligibility and weight to be carried is determined according to specified conditions which include age, sex, earnings, number of wins, and distance of race.

(B) **Claiming.** A race in which any horse starting may be claimed and purchased for a designated amount in conformance with the rules in this Title.

(C) **Exhibition.** A race on which no wagering is permitted.

(D) **Handicap.** A race in which the weights to be carried by the horses are assigned by the Racing Secretary.

(E) **Invitational.** A race in which the competing horses are selected by inviting their Owners to enter specific horses.

(F) **Maiden.** A race restricted for non-winners.

(G) **Match.** A race contested between two or more horses under conditions agreed to by their Owners.

(H) **Nomination.** A race in which the subscription to a payment schedule nominates and sustains the eligibility of a particular horse. Nominations must close at least seventy-two (72) hours before the first post time of the day the race is originally scheduled to be run.

- (I) **Oklahoma-Bred.** A race for which entry may be restricted to accredited Oklahoma-Bred registered horses.
- (J) **Overnight (Purse).** A race for which entries close at a time set by the Racing Secretary.
- (K) **Progeny.** A race restricted to the offspring of a specific stallion or stallions.
- (L) **Schooling.** A preparatory race for entry qualification in official races which conforms to requirements adopted by the Commission.
- (M) **Stakes.** A race which is eligible for stakes or "black-type" recognition by the particular breed registry.
- (N) **Trial.** A race of a series of races in which horses participate for the purpose of determining eligibility for a subsequent contest.
- (O) **Walkover.** A race in which only one horse starts or in which all the starters are owned by the same interest. To claim the purse, a horse must start and go the distance of the race.

"**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 or 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.

"**Starter**" means a horse whose stall door of the starting gate opens in front of such horse at the time the Starter (the Official) dispatches the horses.

"**Steward**" means a duly appointed Racing Official with powers and duties specified by statutes or rules.

"**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.

75 O.S., §§ 302, 305, and 307; 3A O.S. § 200.1(B)
 [Source: Amended at 16 Ok Reg 2889, eff 7-12-99]

325:60-1-3. Jockeys to Report

Every Jockey engaged to ride in a race shall report to the Jockey Room at least one hour before post time of the first race and shall weigh out at the appointed time unless excused by the Stewards. After reporting, a Jockey shall not leave the Jockey Room until all of the Jockey's riding engagements have been fulfilled and/or unless excused by the Stewards.

325:60-1-4. Entrance to Jockey Room Prohibited

Except with permission of the Stewards or the Commission, no person shall be permitted entrance into the Jockey Room from one hour before post time for the first race until after the last race other than Jockeys, their attendants, Racing Officials, Security Officers on duty, and organization employees performing required duties.

325:60-1-5. Maximum Overweight

No horse shall carry more than two pounds overweight without consent of the Trainer or the Trainer's authorized representative, but shall not carry more than five pounds overweight in any race.

325:60-1-6. Weighing Out

All Jockeys taking part in a race must be weighed out by the Clerk of Scales no more than one hour preceding the time designated for the race. Any overweight in excess of one pound shall be declared by the Jockey to the Clerk of Scales, who shall report such overweight and any change in Jockeys to the Stewards for the immediate public announcement. A Jockey must be neat in appearance and must wear a conventional riding costume. A Jockey's weight shall include his/her clothing, boots, saddle and its attachments, and any other equipment except the whip, bridle, bit or reins, safety helmet, safety vest, blinkers, goggles and number cloth. A safety vest shall be worn by the Jockey and shall weigh no more than two pounds, and shall be designed to provide shock absorbing protection to the upper body of at least a rating of five as defined by the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA).

[Source: Amended at 10 Ok Reg 4229, eff 7-7-93 (emergency); Amended at 11 Ok Reg 4201, eff 7-26-94; Amended at 12 Ok Reg 2433, eff 6-26-95; 11-07-96]

325:60-1-7. Unruly Horses in the Paddock

If a horse is so unruly in the saddling paddock that the Horse Identifier cannot read the tattoo number and properly identify the horse; or if the Trainer or the Trainer's assistant is uncooperative in the effort to identify the horse, then the horse may be scratched by order of the Stewards.

325:60-1-8. Use of Equipment

No bridle shall weigh more than two pounds, nor shall any whip weigh more than one pound or be more than thirty-one inches (31") in length. No whip shall be used unless it shall have affixed to the end thereof a leather "popper". All whips are subject to inspection and approval by the Stewards. Blinkers are not to be placed on the horse until after the horse has been identified by the Horse Identifier, except with permission of the Stewards. Approval from the

325:60-1-17. Start of the Race

When the horses have reached the starting gate, they shall be placed in their starting gate stalls in the order stipulated by the Starter. Except in cases of emergency as determined by the Stewards, every horse shall be started by the Starter from a starting gate approved by the Commission. The Starter shall see that the horses are placed in their proper positions without unnecessary delay. Causes for any delay in the start shall immediately be reported to the Stewards. If, when the Starter purposefully dispatches the field, the doors at the front of the starting gate stall should not open properly due to a mechanical failure or malfunction of the starting gate, the Stewards may declare such horse to be a non-starter. Should a horse which is not previously scratched not be in the starting gate stall thereby causing such horse to be left when the field is purposefully dispatched by the Starter, such horse shall be declared a non-starter by the Stewards.

325:60-1-18. Leaving the Racecourse

Should a horse leave the course while moving from the paddock to starting gate, it shall return to the course at the nearest practical point to that at which it left the course and shall complete its parade to the starting gate from the point at which it left the course. However, should such horse leave the course to the extent that it is out of the direct line of sight of the Stewards, or if such horse cannot be returned to the course within a reasonable amount of time, the Stewards shall scratch the horse. Any horse which leaves the course or loses its Jockey during the running of a race shall be disqualified and may be placed last, or the horse may be unplaced.

325:60-1-19. Riding Rules

In a straightaway race, every horse must maintain position as nearly as possible in the lane in which it starts. If a horse is ridden, drifts, or swerves out of its lane in such a manner that it interferes with or impedes another horse, a foul occurs. Each Jockey shall be responsible for making his/her best effort to control and guide his/her mount in such a way as not to cause a foul. The Stewards shall take cognizance of riding which results in a foul, irrespective of whether an objection is lodged. If in the opinion of the Stewards a foul is committed as a result of a Jockey not making his/her best effort to control and guide his/her mount to avoid a foul, whether intentionally or through carelessness or incompetence, such Jockey may be penalized at the discretion of the Stewards.

325:60-1-20. Stewards to Determine Fouls and Extent of Disqualification

The Stewards shall determine the extent of interference in cases of fouls or riding infractions. They

may disqualify the offending horse and place it behind such other horses as in their judgment it interfered with, or they may place it last. The Stewards may determine that a horse shall be unplaced.

325:60-1-21. Careless Riding

A Jockey shall not ride carelessly or willfully so as to permit his/her mount to interfere with or impede any other horse in the race. A Jockey shall not willfully strike at another horse or Jockey so as to impede, interfere with, or injure the other horse or Jockey. If a Jockey rides in a manner contrary to this Section, the horse may be disqualified and/or the Jockey may be fined and/or suspended or otherwise disciplined.

325:60-1-22. Ramifications of a Disqualification

When a horse is disqualified by the Stewards, every horse in the race owned wholly or in part by the same Owner or trained by the same Trainer may be disqualified. When a horse is disqualified for interference in a time trial race, it shall receive the time of the horse it is placed behind plus one one-hundredths (.01) of a second penalty, or more exact measurement if photo finish equipment permits, and shall be eligible to qualify for the finals or consolations of the race on the basis of the assigned time.

325:60-1-23. Dead Heat

When a race results in a dead heat, the heat shall not be run off. The purse distribution due the horses involved in the dead heat shall be divided equally between them. All prizes or trophies for which a duplicate is not awardable shall be drawn for by lot.

325:60-1-24. Returning to the Finish After the Race

After the race, the Jockey shall return the horse to the finish and before dismounting, signal the Stewards by salute that s/he does not wish to claim foul. No person shall assist a Jockey in removing from his/her horse the equipment that is to be included in the Jockey's weight except by permission of the Stewards. No person shall throw any covering over any horse at the place of dismounting until the Jockey has removed the equipment that is to be included in his/her weight.

325:60-1-25. Objection - Inquiry Concerning Interference

Before the race has been declared official, a Jockey, Trainer or his/her Assistant Trainer, Owner, or the Authorized Agent of the horse, who has reasonable grounds to believe that the horse was interfered with or impeded or otherwise hindered during the running of a race or that a riding rule in this Chapter was violated by any Jockey or horse during the running of the race, may make a claim of interference or foul with the Stewards or their delegate; but such claim must be made prior to the race being declared official by the Stewards. The

Stewards or their designee for any change of equipment must be obtained prior to entry.

325:60-1-9. Prohibited Use of Equipment

Jockeys are prohibited from whipping a horse excessively, brutally, or upon the head, except when necessary to control the horse in an emergency. No mechanical or electrical devices or appliances other than the ordinary whip or approved twitch shall be possessed by any person or used on any horse at any time, whether in a race or otherwise.

325:60-1-10. Responsibility for Weight

The Jockey, Trainer, and Owner shall be responsible for the weight carried by the horse after the Jockey has been weighed out for the race by the Clerk of Scales. The Trainer or Owner may substitute a Jockey when the engaged Jockey is reported overweight in excess of two pounds.

325:60-1-11. Safety Helmets Required

All persons, when mounted on a race horse within the enclosure or riding in a race, shall wear a properly fastened safety helmet. The Commission or the Stewards may require any other person to wear such helmet when mounted on a horse within the enclosure. All safety helmets so required are subject to approval of the Stewards or Commission.

325:60-1-12. Display of colors and post position numbers

Any Owner or racing stable may; register a set of racing colors following the standard style and material to be used in any race in which a horse or horses owned by them may be participating. All racing colors must be registered with the Racing Secretary's Office no later than entry time for the race in question. Any Owner who has registered such colors shall present them in a clean and neat condition. Any Owner who does not register a set of racing colors shall use standard post position racing colors furnished by the organization licensee. All helmet cover colors shall correspond to post position colors regardless of the wearing of Owner's colors. In a race, each horse shall carry a conspicuous saddle cloth number and a head number; and the Jockey shall wear a helmet cover corresponding to the number of the horse.

[Source: Amended at 16 Ok Reg 2893, eff 7-12-99]

325:60-1-13. Deposit of Jockey Fee

The minimum jockey mount fee for a losing mount in the race must be on deposit with the Horsemen's Bookkeeper prior to the time for weighing out, and failure to have such minimum fee on deposit is cause for disciplinary action and cause for the Stewards to scratch the horse for which such fee is to be deposited. The

organization licensee assumes the obligation to pay the jockey fee when earned by the engaged Jockey. The jockey fee shall be considered earned when the Jockey is weighed out by the Clerk of Scales, unless, in the opinion of the Stewards, such Jockey capable of riding elects to take himself or herself off the mount without proper cause.

325:60-1-14. Requirements for Horse, Trainer, and Jockey

Every horse must be in the paddock at the time appointed by the Stewards before post time for its race. Every horse must be saddled in the paddock stall designated by the Paddock Judge unless special permission is granted by the Stewards to saddle elsewhere. Each Trainer or Assistant Trainer having the care and custody of such horse shall be present in the paddock to supervise the saddling of the horse and shall give such instructions as may be necessary to assure the best performance of the horse. Every Jockey participating in a race shall give his/her best effort in order to facilitate the best performance of his/her horse.

325:60-1-15. Failure to Fulfill Jockey Engagements

No Jockey engaged for a certain race or for a specified time may fail or refuse to abide by his/her agreement unless excused by the Stewards. Every Jockey Agent shall maintain a record of all engagements made for the Jockeys they represent; and such record shall specify first, second, or third calls in each race. The officials may require that the Jockey Agent file first, second, or third calls with the Racing Secretary and may require the Jockey Agent to display their record of engagements. A Trainer or Owner may demand a written confirmation of an engagement from a Jockey or agent. Jockeys are bound by agreements made on their behalf by their agents. Conflicting claims for the services of a Jockey shall be decided by the Stewards or the Stewards' designee.

325:60-1-16. Control and Parade of Horses on the Track

The horses are under the control of the Starter from the time they enter the track until dispatched at the start of the race. All horses with Jockey mounted shall parade and warm up carrying their weight and wearing their equipment from the paddock to the starting gate, as well as to the finish line. Any horse failing to do so may be scratched by the Stewards. After passing the stands at least once, the horses may break formation and warm up until directed to proceed to the starting gate. In the event a Jockey is injured during the parade to post or at the starting gate and must be replaced, the horse shall be returned to the paddock and resaddled with the replacement Jockey's equipment. Such horse must carry the replacement Jockey to the starting gate.

Stewards shall thereupon hold an inquiry into the running of the race; however, the Stewards may upon their own motion conduct an inquiry into the running of a race. Any claim of foul, objection, and/or inquiry shall be immediately announced to the public.

325:60-1-26. Official Order of Finish

When satisfied that the order of finish is correct, that all Jockeys unless excused have been properly weighed in, and that the race has been properly run in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Title, the Stewards shall declare that the order of finish is official; and it shall be announced to the public, confirmed, and the official sign and official order of finish posted for the race.

325:60-1-27. Time trial qualifiers

When two or more time trial contestants have the same qualifying time, to a degree of one one-hundredths (.01) of a second, or more exact measurement if photo finish equipment permits, for fewer positions in the finals or consolation necessary for all contestants, then a draw by lot will be conducted in accordance with 325:25-1-28. However, no contestant may draw into a finals or consolation instead of a contestant which out-finished such contestant. *When scheduled races are trial heats for futurities or stakes races electronically timed from the starting gates, no organization licensee shall move the starting gates or allow the starting gates to be moved until all trial heats are complete, except in an emergency as determined by the Stewards [3A:205.2(I)].*

[Source: Amended at 16 Ok Reg 2893, eff 7-12-99]