

CHAPTER 60. RUNNING THE RACE

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, ~~or~~ Trainer, Parent or Guardian of a minor on whose behalf the Agent will act, and limited to the actions as specified on the affidavit. 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 or 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.

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

"**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.

325:60-1-3. Jockeys to Report

Every Jockey engaged to ride in a race shall report their weight to the clerk of scales to the Jockey Room at least one hour before post time of the first race and shall report to the Jockey Room one hour prior to the race in which they are engaged to ride 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.

325:60-1-8. Use of Equipment

(a) 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.

(b) All riding crops are subject to inspection and approval by the Stewards and the clerk of scales.

(1) Riding crops shall have a shaft and a flap and will be allowed in flat racing including training, only as follows.

(A) Maximum weight of eight ounces;

(B) Maximum length, including flap of 30 inches

(C) Minimum diameter of the shaft of three-eighths inch; and

(D) Shaft contact area must be smooth, with no protrusions or raised surface, and covered by shock absorbing material that gives a

compression factor of at least one-millimeter throughout its circumference.

(c) The flap is the only allowable attachment to the shaft and must meet these specifications:

(1) Length beyond the end of the shaft a maximum of one inch;

(2) Width a minimum of 0.8 inch and a maximum of 1.6 inches;

(3) No reinforcements or additions beyond the end of the shaft;

(4) No binding within seven inches of the end of the shaft; and

(5) Shock absorbing characteristics similar to those in the contact area of the shaft.

- (d) 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.
- (e) Approval from the Stewards or their designee for any change of equipment must be obtained prior to entry.

325:60-1-11. Safety Helmets Equipment 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.~~

(a) **Helmets.** Any person mounted on a horse or stable pony on association grounds must wear a properly secured safety helmet at all times. Additionally, all members of the starting gate crew must adhere to this regulation at all times while performing their duties or handling a horse. For the purpose of this regulation, a member of the starting crew means any person licensed as an assistant starter or any person who handles a horse in the starting gate. The helmet must comply with one of the following minimum safety standards or later revisions:

- (1) American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM 1163);
- (2) European Standards (EN-1384 or PAS-015 or VG1);
- (3) Australian/New Zealand Standards (AS/NZ 3838; or
- (4) ARB HS 2012); or Snell Equestrian Standard 2001.

(b) **Vests.** Any person mounted on a horse or stable pony on the association grounds must wear a properly-secured safety vest at all times. Additionally, all members of the starting gate crew must also adhere to this regulation at all times while performing their duties or handling a horse. For the purpose of this regulation, a member of the starting gate crew means any person licensed as an assistant starter or any person who handles a horse at the starting gate. The safety vest must comply with one of the following minimum standards or later revisions:

- (1) British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA):2000 Level 1;
- (2) Euro Norm (EN) 13158:2000 Level 1;
- (3) American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F2681-08 or F1937;
- (4) Shoe and Allied Trade Research Association (SATRA) Jockey Vest Document M6 Issue 3; or
- (5) Australian Racing Board (ARB) Standard 1.1998.

(c) A safety helmet or a safety vest shall not be altered in any manner nor shall the product marking be removed or defaced.

(d) All safety equipment so required are subject to approval of the Stewards, Safety Steward, or Commission.

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 to be a non-starter. Should a horse which is not previously scratched not be in the starting gate stall thereby causing horse to be left when the field is purposefully dispatched by the Starter, such shall be declared a non-starter by the Stewards. Should an incident or malfunction of the starting gate, or other unforeseen event compromise the fairness of the race or the safety of race participants, the stewards shall post the inquiry sign and may declare individual horses to be non-starters, exclude individual horses from all pari-mutuel pools or declare a "no contest" and refund all wagers except as otherwise provided in the rules involving multi-race wagers.