



Ohio State Racing Commission

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Mike DeWine
Governor

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To: Chris McErlean, Elizabeth Rogers, Brent Reitz, Ken Rambo, Jason Roth, Jason Blum, Chris Corrado, Patrick Ellsworth, Dave Basler, Renee Mancino

From: Bill Crawford, Executive Director

Date: May 28, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Update

You are hereby **directed and informed** that in compliance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) orders, all Ohio State Racing Commission (Commission) Resolutions and all Commission Safety Protocols regarding COVID-19 are hereby rescinded on June 2, 2021 at 12:01 AM EDT.

This Directive includes Commission resolutions 2020-11(A) Protocols for a Safe Return to Racing and 2020-17 COVID-19 Notification.

This Directive further includes all Commission Directives, regarding COVID-19, beginning in March 2020 up to and including Revised Protocols for Racing During the Pandemic Starting May 18, 2021.

This Directive does not prohibit a person from wearing a mask or facial covering while on the Permit Holders grounds.

The Commission will continue to monitor the situation closely and will continue to update you as pertinent information becomes available.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in maintaining a safe and healthy racing facility as we all deal with an unprecedented situation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-466-2758.

If you need further information on COVID-19, please visit, coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-427-5634.

OHIO STATE RACING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2020-11(A)

WHEREAS, the Ohio State Racing Commission ("Commission") has the authority under Revised Code 3769.06 to issue a permit to hold or conduct horse racing and the permit shall include the days upon which the horse racing is to be held or conducted;

WHEREAS, The Commission has issued a permit to Belterra Park Racetrack and JACKThistledown Racetrack to conduct Thoroughbred horse racing in 2020;

WHEREAS, The Commission has issued a permit to Scioto Downs Racetrack and Northfield Park Racetrack to conduct Standardbred horse racing in 2020;

WHEREAS, Since March 18, 2020, Thoroughbred horse racing and Standardbred horse racing has not been conducted in the State of Ohio due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, The Commission desires to give permission to these permit holders when horse racing may resume in the State of Ohio;

WHEREAS, To ensure the safety of all horse racing participants, the Commission has developed Protocols for a Safe Return to Racing without Spectators ("Protocols") which are attached and incorporated by reference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commission that Belterra Park Racetrack and JACKThistledown Racetrack may open their facilities for horsemen and horses to move in including dormitories and to conduct training and workouts starting on May 16, 2020. Belterra Park Racetrack and JACKThistledown Racetrack may resume live horse racing starting on May 22, 2020. Belterra Park Racetrack and JACKThistledown Racetrack are subject to and shall comply with the Protocols;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commission that Scioto Downs Racetrack and Northfield Park Racetrack may open their facilities for horsemen and horses to move in and to conduct training and qualifiers starting on May 16, 2020. Scioto Downs Racetrack and Northfield Park Racetrack may resume live horse racing starting on May 22, 2020. Scioto Downs Racetrack and Northfield Park Racetrack are subject to and shall comply with the Protocols;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commission due to this unprecedented and very fluid situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission chairman and/or the commission executive director is hereby

authorized to change the Protocols as circumstances dictate and they deem necessary without having to return to the commission for approval.

Adopted: May 14, 2020

OHIO STATE RACING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2020-17

WHEREAS, Chapter 3769 of the Revised Code authorizes the Ohio State Racing Commission (“Commission”) to regulate and preserve the integrity of horse racing in Ohio;

WHEREAS, Revised Code 3769.03 authorizes the Commission to take enforcement actions against all licensees, including permit holders’ employees, as is in the public interest for the purpose of maintaining proper control over horse racing meetings;

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a Director’s Journal Entry making COVID-19 a class A reportable disease in Ohio because of the severity of COVID-19 and the potential for epidemic spread;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine declared a State of Emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Executive Order 2020-01 D;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED any person who holds a Commission license, is on a Commission Permit Holders’ property, and tests positive for COVID-19; shall immediately report the positive COVID-19 test result to the to Permit Holder’s management and the Judges and/or Stewards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED upon notification of the positive COVID-19 test result, the Permit Holder shall notify the county health department who has jurisdiction over the Permit Holders’ premises as well as the Commission’s Executive Director;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED any Licensee or permit holder employee who does not follow the requirements of this Resolution shall be subject to possible sanctions by the Commission.

Adopted: November 19, 2020

Revised Protocols for Racing During the Pandemic, Starting May 18, 2021

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Permit Holders shall develop and provide training to all team members, including security and medical personnel on all new procedures and monitoring/reporting requirements.
- Trainers, contractors, and vendors shall develop and provide training to their employees on all new procedures and monitoring/reporting requirements.
- Medical personnel will be trained on procedures to ensure that all suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection are properly communicated and documented.
- Establish a staff directory of all contacts for Key Personnel which can be accessible with cell phone numbers and emails. Also include the current management chain of command with names of key personnel.
- List of Key Personnel:
 - ❖ Include racing officials as designated by the state and safety staff.
 - ❖ Track employees
 - ❖ Personnel involved with the care, training and racing of horses including but not limited to grooms, hotwalkers, exercise riders, trainers and their assistants, jockeys, drivers, blacksmiths, veterinarians, outriders and pony persons.
 - ❖ Personnel licensed by the commission to ensure horse racing is held in compliance with state statutes and regulations.
 - ❖ Potential back-ups.

PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES AND DIRECTIVES

Medical Screenings

- **All OSRC licensees, who are not vaccinated, must wear masks while on the Permit Holders' grounds; this includes frontside and backside.**
- Anyone wishing to enter the backside area(s) must follow all established Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines*.
 - ❖ Anyone refusing to comply will be denied entry.
- A valid Ohio State Racing Commission (OSRC) license must be presented at the time of entry to the backside.
 - ❖ If unlicensed the person must go directly to the licensing office.
- Pre-entry procedures include:
 - ❖ Wearing, at minimum, a suitable mask or face covering if licensee is not vaccinated, prior to entering and all times while on the grounds except jockeys, exercise riders and drivers while mounted or seated behind a horse.
 - ❖ All individuals entering the Barn Area(s) will be screened in accordance with applicable public health orders or recommendations.
 - Permit Holder will perform medical screening for all of their employees prior to entering the barn area(s) in accordance with applicable public health orders or recommendations.

- Trainers, Contractors & Vendors will perform medical screening for all of their employees who wish to enter the barn area in accordance with applicable public health orders or recommendations.
- Reports of individuals being exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19 will be addressed in accordance with exclusionary protocols established by any applicable federal, state, or local public health orders, including, but not limited to:
 - ❖ The individual will be denied entry and/or removed from the property
 - ❖ The employer of the individual will follow all reporting requirements established by state or local public health agencies.

Procedures for onsite personnel and horses

- Horsemen shall make hand sanitizer available for their staff, contractors and vendors
- Antibacterial liquid soap will be kept stocked in restrooms and bath houses.
- Personnel are urged to make frequent use of the sanitizers and soap.
- Sharing of barn/horse equipment shall be minimized.
 - ❖ If used by multiple horsemen, equipment shall be sanitized by horsemen between each use.

Ship-Ins

- Horses that are shipping in shall:
 - ❖ Proceed to assigned stall in receiving barn and shall not ship into a permanent on-site stall under any circumstances.
 - ❖ The horse must depart the property the same day – no exceptions
- Individuals in the receiving barns must follow social distancing guidelines.
- Horsemen are responsible for daily cleaning of all frequently touched surfaces such as faucets, door handles etc.
- Horsemen shall make hand sanitizer available for their employees working in the receiving barn.
- Permit holders will ensure the receiving barn rest rooms are stocked with soap.

Dormitories

- Rooms may have two (2) people if they meet the following criteria
 - ❖ Criteria for two (2) people per room:
 - House families together i.e.-husband and wife
 - Currently room together
 - Work in the same stable
 - All other rooms must be single occupancy
 - ❖ No Guests or unassigned people allowed in rooms

JOCKEY TRAVEL

- Any jockey who is not currently riding within the State of Ohio is prohibited from riding at your facility until the jockey has completed a seven day quarantine and the jockey shows documentation of a negative COVID-19 test within the last two days of the quarantine.
- A jockey who is currently riding within the State of Ohio and leaves this state to ride, shall not be allowed to ride at your facility until the jockey has completed a seven day quarantine and the jockey shows documentation of a negative COVID-19 test within the last two days of the quarantine.
- This protocol does not restrict the travel of any jockey who is currently riding within the State of Ohio to ride at another horse racing facility in this state.

JOCKEYS' ROOM

- All jockeys must pass the daily medical screening
- The permit holder will ensure that jockeys and staff can maintain spacing within the jockeys' room with the approval of the OSRC.
- Hand sanitizer and liquid soap will be provided for frequent use.
- The jockey's room shall be cleaned and disinfected by the permit holder at the end of each race day and remain closed on other days.
- Frequent use/touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day and/or supplies will be provided for additional cleansing.
- Saunas will remain closed.
- Jockeys shall leave the Jockeys' Room following their last race after being given the opportunity to shower.
- The saddle must be sanitized before being brought back to the jockey's room.

DRIVERS' ROOM

- All drivers must pass the daily medical screening.
- The permit holder will ensure that drivers and staff can maintain spacing within the driver's room to comply with proper social distancing guidelines.
- Hand sanitizer and liquid soap will be provided for frequent use.
- The drivers' room shall be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each race day and remain closed on other days.
- Frequent use/touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day and/or supplies will be provided for additional cleansing.
- Drivers will be asked to leave following their last race.
- Drivers who are not regular drivers and/or come in from out of state and regular drivers who drive elsewhere and return:
 - ❖ These drivers will be located in a separate room. If there is more than one outside driver, they must be provided with a large enough room to allow them to comply with social distancing guidelines and contain restroom facilities.
 - ❖ These drivers will not be allowed access to the backside except for the paddock/driver's room area.

OFFICIALS/RACE-TIME PERSONNEL/PADDOCK

- Race officials, charter(s), announcer(s), video production staff, timer(s), & photo finish staff, collectively known as “Officials & Racing Operations Personnel”, shall follow safe social distancing practices at all times.
- Thoroughbred Paddock access will be limited to officials, the trainer, assistant trainer, owners, groom and horse.
- Standardbred Paddock access will be limited to officials, the trainer, owner, groom, warm up personnel and horse.
- Permit holder will ensure hand sanitizer and/or antibacterial soap is available for all Officials & Racing Operations Personnel.
- Officials & Racing Operations Personnel shall utilize the minimum number of on-site staff to perform required functions.
- Judges/Stewards Hearings should be done via video or conference call when possible. Permit holder will use best efforts to provide space large enough to hold such hearings when a video or conference call is not possible.
- Entries shall be taken by phone or electronic means.
- Draw shall be done in a space large enough so a designated horsemen’s rep may attend. If possible, the permit holder may make a video conferences available for the Draw.
- Licensing:
 - OSRC and Permit Holder shall implement best practices to limit the number of individuals waiting in line for licensing and ensure safe social distancing practices can be followed.
- Racing office staff shall monitor the number of individuals in the racing office area and shall limit the number of individuals allowed in the racing office area if it becomes impossible to follow safe social distancing practices. No unnecessary people allowed.
- Officials and Racing Operations Personnel shall perform as many functions as possible via phone or electronic means.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

To limit exposure and prevent the spread of germs and disease the following restrictions shall apply:

- No guests or unlicensed personnel shall access the backside area(s);
 - ❖ No congregating in any backside area;
 - ❖ Official clockers and gap attendants to use their designated space(s) only;
- Only horsemen with horses stabled at the track or racing that day and others responsible for the care of the horses are allowed in the stable area;
- Horsemen shipping in for a workout or qualifiers will be allowed in the stable area;
- Track kitchen is open to serve authorized, licensed personnel per ODH guidelines

CLEANING PROTOCOLS FOR BACKSIDE & TRACKSIDE OPERATIONS

- Permit Holders will be responsible for cleaning and maintain restrooms during normal operations provided the permit holder staff is able to follow safe social distancing practices. Cleaning operations will include:
 - ❖ Trash removal
 - ❖ Cleaning of surfaces
 - ❖ Stocking liquid soap
- Horsemen and their contractors/vendors/employees shall be responsible for cleaning frequently touched surfaces (e.g. faucets, door handles etc..) throughout the barn areas where they operate and they shall be responsible for making sanitizer available for their contractors, vendors, and employees in the barn areas where they operate.
- Officials and Racing Operations Personnel Offices shall be cleaned by the permit holder and additional disinfecting shall be performed by the permit holder as necessary.

**Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.*