

Race Line



UNITED (Giant's Causeway - Indy Punch)
Photo: Lisa Hocking

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Race Line is the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)'s publication for Ontario's horse racing industry. Printed copies are available at open racetracks and industry associations. All issues may be viewed online in both official languages at www.agco.ca.

We welcome your ideas and input. If there are topics you would like to see addressed in future publications, or if you wish to receive *Race Line* and other AGCO horse racing-related communications electronically, please email connect@agco.ca or call 416-326-3614.

Getting Ready for Phase 2 of Racing Reform in Ontario

MODERNIZING THE RULES OF RACING AND RELATED REGULATORY PROCESSES

The AGCO is now moving into the second phase of the "Moving Ahead: Horse Racing Regulation in Ontario" project.

Phase 2 is a multi-year racing reform initiative designed to modernize the Rules of Racing and related regulatory processes to better align with the AGCO's broader regulatory framework; progressing towards a more risk-based, outcomes-based and compliance-focused model.

To help ensure this work is relevant and of benefit to the industry, the AGCO is committed to ongoing collaboration with industry stakeholders. In the coming months, the AGCO will establish formal ongoing engagement and advisory processes to ensure industry input continues to be reflected in future reforms.

In the months ahead, further information will be communicated regarding opportunities to become involved in the advisory process.

CONCUSSION STANDARDS-BASED RULE

Phase 2 will also see the development of a standards-based rule for concussion safety at Ontario racetracks.

Building on advice and feedback shared by the industry through the AGCO's roundtable consultation sessions and

Equine Health and Safety Working Group, the standards-based rule for concussion safety will seek to incorporate current best practices for concussion safety used in prominent racing jurisdictions and professional sports leagues around the world. The intent is to establish an approach that makes sense for Ontario's racing sector. In the months ahead, there will be further communications regarding the development of this standards-based rule.

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[@CAJO_Courses](https://twitter.com/CAJO_Courses)

Similar to the Standards-Based Temperature Rule introduced in January 2018, the development of a standards-based rule for concussion safety is consistent with the AGCO's modern regulatory approach and the ongoing move towards a less prescriptive, standards-based approach to the rules of racing.

The objective of a standards-based regulatory model is to shift the focus from requiring registrants to comply with a specific set of itemized processes towards the broader outcomes they are expected to achieve. This approach is intended to enhance compliance without needlessly burdening regulated entities. The AGCO currently applies the standards-based approach to the regulation of Ontario's gaming sector.

Survey Results

As reported in the previous issue of *Race Line*, over 130 people responded to the recent 'Moving Ahead' survey, with the majority of the respondents being industry participants, horseplayers and fans.

The following highlights the most significant results and responses, as well as the AGCO's intended course of action.

Race Line: Almost two-thirds (62.5%) of the respondents who have read *Race Line* find it to be *very* or *somewhat* useful and informative. Many respondents said that they would like to see more information in the newsletter, specifically on hearings and decisions, and clarification of the Rules.

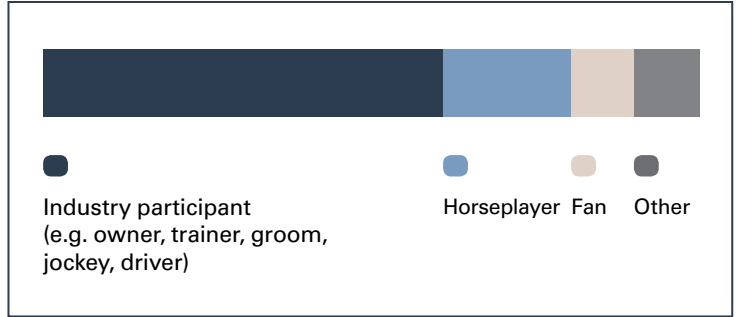
The AGCO will continue to seek out content to ensure *Race Line* provides the most relevant news and information of interest to the horse racing industry.

Twitter: Just 34.62% of respondents said they follow the account, and many respondents commented that they do not follow Twitter at all. Those who follow, do so to keep on top of industry news, reports and changes to policies. Many said that they would like to see more detail when it comes to race results and rulings.

The AGCO will develop a plan to increase awareness of the account and provide regular, current updates through the @AGCO_Racing and @CAJO_Courses Twitter accounts.

Race Reports: As reported in the last issue of *Race Line*, over 75% of respondents were aware that the Senior Official's Race Reports were being made available following each race card.

Having launched this service in 2017 as a pilot project using selected Standardbred tracks, the AGCO now makes Race Reports available for all tracks. For Premier and Signature tracks, embedded video will gradually be incorporated into the Reports, a feature requested by several survey participants.



Continued Stakeholder Consultation: Racetrack Employee: "I strongly encourage continuing with the working groups and finding ways to enhance and improve the regulatory system."

In the coming months, the AGCO will establish formal ongoing engagement and advisory processes to ensure industry input is reflected in future reforms.

Transparency with regard to Positive Tests:

- Industry Participant: "I think the AGCO would better serve participants and horseplayers if they were more open and transparent with their communications on positive tests. The public need to be informed as to why certain positive tests are taking so long to reach a final decision. The public perception that these positives are being swept under the rug hurts the industry."
- Industry Participant: "You could post who has positive test and what it was for that they tested with when they get the positive."

The AGCO has set up an Equine Drug Program page at www.agco.ca/horse-racing/equine-drug-program. This page explains process for positive tests and contains a list of positive test results (Classes I-V and TCO2) and the resulting rulings.

THE #1 TAKEAWAY? "TRANSPARENCY IS KEY."

Overall, the recurring theme in the survey results was transparency. Respondents said they simply want transparency when it comes to positive tests, rulings, decisions, suspensions and fines. The AGCO is committed to increased transparency and carrying out our mandate to regulate the horse racing sector in accordance with the principles of honesty and integrity, and in the public interest. Continuous improvements to the content and use of the AGCO website, Official Race Reports, *Race Line* and Twitter are just some of the ways this will be achieved.



A COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

RACE REPORTS

Senior Official's Race Reports are now being posted after each card of racing, for all tracks, for all breeds. These reports may be found at www.agco.ca/content/official-race-reports and are also available on the following websites: **Standardbred Canada** (all Standardbred tracks), **Ajax Downs** (Quarter Horse), **Woodbine Racetrack** and **Fort Erie Race Track** (Thoroughbred).

EQUINE DRUG POSITIVE TESTS

Positive test results are posted on the AGCO website along with the accompanying rulings at www.agco.ca/horse-racing/equine-positive-test-data.



The AGCO is committed to enhancing the fairness, integrity and safety of horse racing in Ontario, while at the same time enhancing public confidence, reducing administrative burdens, and modernizing horse racing regulation.

Getting to Know: Mike Wilson, AGCO Manager of Racing

Recently, Mike Wilson, one of the AGCO's two Managers of Racing, assumed responsibility for overseeing the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing sectors. Well-known and well-tenured on the Standardbred side of racing, Mike shares why the switch is good, what he's learned so far from working with the other two breeds and why he's enjoying the new role.

Once you get Mike Wilson talking about racing, it's a tall order to get him to stop. A family affair (his brother was a mutuels manager at the Ontario Jockey Club), his early memories of racing include the whole family - parents, grandparents and siblings - gathering together to watch the Queen's Plate or taking a trip out to watch the horses at Winfield Farms. His fondest recollections however, go back to the summers he spent as a child with his grandfather at Greenwood Racetrack, spending time with the horses and developing a lifelong passion for the industry.

As soon as he turned 18, he got a job in the mutuels at Greenwood. There's a whole book waiting to be written about that experience, but as he himself says with a wicked grin, "Most of it is unprintable!" Keeping the mutuels job at night, Mike embarked on a parallel career path as an accountant, but there was no way that occupation could compete with the lure of becoming a horse trainer.

Hired by Roger Mayotte, he started out walking and jogging WEDOITALLTOYOU ("Bert"), bathing horses and mucking stables, all with his eyes on the prize of being a trainer. It worked. After 7 years as an assistant trainer, he went out on his own with partners Randy Bennett, Tom Miller and CELEBRITYSHARVID ("Dave"). Demonstrating an incredible work ethic, Mike's days were a careful balancing act of time management as he trained and worked part-

time at both Canada Post and as the mutuels supervisor at Woodbine. Eventually, his friend Tom Miller who had driven for him, encouraged him to try his hand at being a Judge. Like most, Mike's career as a judge started as a part-timer working the smaller tracks, evolving into a full-time job in 2000. In 2006 he became the Manager of Racing (Standardbred) at the Ontario Racing Commission, and then the AGCO.



With two Kentucky Derby visits under his belt, holiday trips to Saratoga and Keeneland and having worked closely with Russ Fernandes (former Manager of Racing, Thoroughbred) as well as all of the Commission Stewards for many years, Mike is looking forward to overseeing the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse side of racing. Asked about key differences, he said, "The in-race rules may be different, but between the breeds, everything else is the same including and especially the focus on the integrity of the sport and the welfare of the horse. It's a labour of love for the horsepeople no matter whether Standardbred, Thoroughbred or Quarter Horse."

And so, happy to meet some new faces and excited to take a look at the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse sectors with a fresh set of eyes, the AGCO's new Manager of Thoroughbred Racing is good to go. Final thoughts?

"I think my grandfather would be proud."

Attention Horse Lovers! "Horse Behaviour & Safety" online course for teens is running July 23 – August 10 through the Equine Guelph Horse Portal. Info: <http://www.equineguelph.ca/news/index.php?content=566>

Registrar's Report: Horse Racing Licences Issued (2017-2018)

BREED	TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTNERSHIPS, STABLES AND CORPORATION	TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSEES
Thoroughbred	4,806	958	5,764
Standardbred	9,308	550	9,858
Quarter Horse	500	34	534
Total	14,614	1,542	16,156

Spotlight On: Out-of-Competition Testing

Out-of-Competition testing is carried out by AGCO Racing Investigators (Equine Drug). The Investigators attend training centres and racetracks to collect biological samples from race horses which are then sent to the laboratory to be tested for non-therapeutic medications or other substances of interest. The list of substances being analyzed is constantly monitored and updated to reflect any new developments in the industry. As these inspections are fairly time-consuming, several things are taken into consideration when deciding where to deploy resources, including continuously monitoring such factors as:

- **Horse Performance**, by way of evaluating past performances, track conditions and other factors to identify the performance of a horse that is not consistent with what would be considered expected performance.
- **Universal Trainer Rating** system averages, which are reviewed for inconsistent performance indicators that would trigger the need for testing in a given stable.
- **Change of Performance reports** filed by AGCO Officials.

Using the best information available, Investigators will determine which substances may be in use in a given stable. They will then determine the optimum time for specimen collection that will provide the best opportunity for testing to detect if a substance was used. The welfare of the horse and the protection of the public interest are primary mandates for the AGCO and are taken very seriously. Through out-of-competition testing, the AGCO strives to ensure that non-therapeutic substances are eliminated from the industry.



Online Services Coming to Ontario Horse Racing in 2019

In May 2017, the AGCO's online service delivery platform called iAGCO was launched, with services being rolled out in phases. Currently, all liquor-related transactions with the AGCO can be conducted online through this web-based portal. In late fall 2018, the AGCO plans to add gaming-related transactions to the platform.

Online services for Ontario's horse racing industry are planned to be introduced next year, in the fall of 2019.

Over the next year, every form and certificate currently used in Ontario's horse racing industry will be reviewed, as will the flow of information involved in administering the AGCO's regulatory functions.

Once the platform is configured for horse racing, stakeholders will be invited to participate in the testing process to ensure it fully meets the needs of our users.

Following testing and prior to launch, the AGCO will hold training sessions for industry participants.

Once the system is in place, industry participants will be able to go online to:

- Apply for and renew personal licences – e.g. owners, trainers, vets, authorized agents, grooms, jockeys, association personnel.
- Apply for and renew stable licence(s).
- Apply for and renew racetrack and teletheatre licences.
- Take care of administrative business – e.g. trainer transfers, claiming certificates.
- Conduct many other regulatory-related functions. Details to follow.

As we move closer to implementation, progress updates will be provided to industry through an opt-in email notification system.

LICENSING REMINDER

Industry participants are reminded that new and renewal licensing applications are not necessarily approved immediately upon application, even when submitted in person at a race office. Applications should be made in advance of the licence being required to ensure there is adequate time to complete the appropriate due diligence process. Questions about this process may be directed to: Tanya Cadeau, Manager, Horse Racing Eligibility, Racing Operations at Tanya.Cadeau@agco.ca.

UPDATED RULE BOOKS

Updated *Rules of Racing* books will be printed and available in early fall 2018. This update will incorporate many of the most recent Directives. The AGCO is also beginning the process of bringing both rule books online, in an easy-to-read, searchable format.

LICENSED VETERINARIANS

As per AGCO Rules (Thoroughbred 29.13 and Standardbred 26.17): "For any medication or drug requiring a prescription and any treatment ordinarily requiring the services of a veterinarian for any horse under his/her care and control, a trainer is required to use a veterinarian licensed by the Commission as a veterinarian." **A list of AGCO-licensed veterinarians may now be found on the AGCO website at: <http://www.agco.ca/horse-racing/agco-licensed-veterinarians>.**

HOT WEATHER CARE FOR HORSES

The AGCO reminds horsepeople, racing officials, track management and the Official Veterinarian to share information and be on the alert for any hot weather effects on horses. See also: **Information Bulletin # 9-2016 Temperature Standards-Based Rule Cancellation Process For Racetracks**, available at www.agco.ca.

Reminder: Testing for Clodronate and Tiludronate will start August 1, 2018 as these have been added to the CPMA's Schedule of Prohibited Substances in race horses. For more information call 1-800-268-8835 or email cpmawebacpm@agr.gc.ca.

Industry Snapshot: Who Does What?

Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) ► Responsible for regulating the racing industry – licensing of participants, vets, racetracks, teletheatres, supervising draws, officiating, enforcing the rules of racing. www.agco.ca



Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation of Ontario (OLG) ► Responsible for the allocation of race dates and for overseeing the flow of government funding to the industry. <http://about.olg.ca/horse-racing-landing/>



Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) ► Responsible for the distribution of "Enhanced HIP" funding to the breeders. <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/>



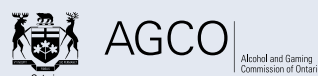
Ontario Racing (OR) ► Governed by a Board of Directors representing all three breeds of horsepeople, breeders and racetracks, Ontario Racing is recognized by the provincial government as the authority for horseracing in Ontario. It is directly responsible for setting an annual program of races, attracting new horse owners, implementing breed improvement programs, growing the fan base and connecting the industry with the government and the general public. <http://ontarioracing.com>



Ontario Racing Management Inc. (ORM) ► Established in 2018, ORM is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Woodbine Entertainment Group, responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of Ontario Racing.



Race Line



This newsletter is published by the **Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario** to provide licensees and interested parties with information regarding horse racing legislation and related issues. Reader comments and content suggestions are welcome.

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