

# **New York State Gaming Commission Horse Racing Rulings Overview**

## **General Description**

Our purpose is to ensure that New York State's legalized pari-mutuel operations, charitable gaming activities and Class III Indian Gaming facilities operate with integrity and are in full compliance with New York's statutes, the Board's rules and the tribal-State Class III Gaming Compacts, respectively.

We safeguard the interest of the public, including the taxpayers and patrons, by ensuring that the regulated entities and their employees participating in or benefiting from legalized gambling operate with the utmost professionalism. We will expeditiously respond to all public concerns.

Executive management understands that personal integrity is paramount for all Board employees who must ensure honest and proper conduct of legalized gambling and other regulated activities.

To properly serve the public, all employees must perform their duties in an ethical manner that is above reproach. To meet this goal we advocate teamwork, intra-agency communication, mutual respect, training and advancement to reach each employee's potential.

Only through vigilance, competence and dedication can the Board and its employees be successful in performing their statutory responsibilities.

Each race conducted at a New York Thoroughbred racetrack is observed by three stewards: one employed by the Racing and Wagering Board, one employed by the racing association and one employed by the Jockey Club. At the harness tracks, each race is observed by three judges who all serve as employees of the Racing and Wagering Board. The stewards' and judges' viewing stand is located near the finish line of each racetrack and is equipped with several television monitors to permit the viewing of multiple angles of each race. The stewards and judges observe the races to ensure that all conduct is in accordance with rules and regulations.

There are few racing jurisdictions that have equaled New York's strong stand on integrity in horse racing. Over the past decade, the Board has enabled more capable and qualified people to become stewards and presiding judges and now have a cadre of qualified individuals who have passed newly instituted coursework. Examples of the testing and preparation are:

- All New York State Racing and Wagering Board (NYSRWB) Presiding and Associate Judges and Starters must be licensed by the United States Trotting Association (USTA) before being hired. A test must be passed to obtain each license. USTA rules courses are held.
- All NYSRWB full-time Stewards must attend the Louisville Equine Steward Certification Class. They must also attend periodic seminars in order to keep their licenses valid.

- All current Judges are retested periodically on the rules, equipment, medications and procedures and the training tests are updated frequently.
- New officials receive extensive on-the-job training at their new positions before being hired full-time.

During the calendar year 2011, the Board imposed 1,183 sanctions for violations of racing laws, rules and regulations at both harness and thoroughbred tracks. The rulings include, but are not limited to, driving and riding infractions, general conduct violations, human and equine drug violations, general business practice violations and several other rule and law violations. The main office of the Racing and Wagering Board issued 401 violations that are not assigned to a specific track. Fines levied in 2011 totaled \$175,176.00

### **Data Collection Methodology**

Violations are entered into a database, either at the track itself or at the Commission's main office. Individuals have the opportunity to appeal any decisions through the Commission's adjudicatory process.