



The Horsemen's Newsletter

December 2018

Vol. 28 • Number 12



New scratch rules implemented

The MTHA and Maryland Jockey Club have agreed on the following parameters for the new scratch rule announced in mid-November.

In the case of a scratch for track condition or "scratch down to 10 or more in a race," there will be no penalty in Maryland; however, the horse will be placed on the stewards' list and will not be permitted to race out of state for 10 days.

For an off-the-turf scratch, there will be no penalty for turf-only entries. Scratched horses entered for turf or dirt will be placed on the stewards' list for 10 days.

In the case of a vet scratch, the horse will be placed on the vets' list for five days and won't be permitted to run out of state for 10 days.

The MTHA Racing Committee and MJC also agreed to establish the set scratch time of 9 a.m. the day of the race.

Microchipping of horses stabled at Laurel Park, Pimlico to begin in 2019

All horses stabled at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course will be microchipped under a process that will begin after Jan. 1, 2019.

The move is similar to one that began in November at Parx Racing at the urging of Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association for identification, integrity and biosecurity purposes. MJC President Sal Sinatra said the New York Racing Association also is considering having all horses on the grounds of its race-track microchipped.

The Jockey Club in 2016 began a voluntary foal microchipping program and made it mandatory in 2017. So 2-year-olds that race in 2019 will have been chipped as part of registration protocol.

The California Horse Racing Board in 2017 proposed a requirement that all Thoroughbreds entered to race be microchipping. It went through the customary approval process and takes effect in late December, according to the Thoroughbred Owners of California.

"The game plan is if Parx, Maryland and New York do it, the majority of

horses in the Mid-Atlantic region will be chipped," Sinatra said.

Georganne Hale, Vice President of Racing Development for the MJC, said management has ordered 1,000 microchips from a company used by The Jockey Club and five scanners to read the chips.

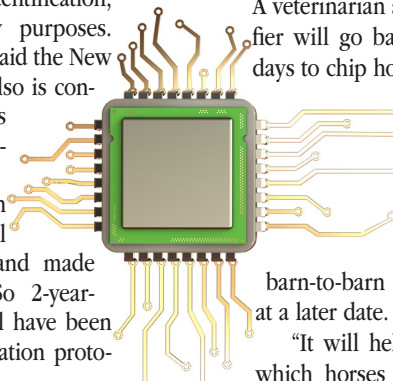
A veterinarian and the horse identifier will go barn to barn on dark days to chip horses.

There will be no cost to horsemen for the initial round of chipping, Hale said. A schedule for the

barn-to-barn chipping will be set at a later date.

"It will help us with knowing which horses are coming in and out of the stable gate," Hale said.

PTHA officials in late November provided the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission with an update of the microchipping project at Parx and said the process was going smoothly. At Parx, horsemen are notified on a Monday to prepare the necessary paperwork for chipping on a Friday.



MTHA

Christmas Party

& Toy Drive

DECEMBER 11 • 6 P.M. – 10 P.M.

Tickets are \$35 each or Ten for \$300 – To Purchase visit www.mdhorsemen.com, stop in the MTHA Office or call 410-902-6844

New live racing calendar calls for 187 live racing programs in 2019

The proposed Maryland Thoroughbred racing calendar for 2019 calls for 187 programs from Jan. 1-Dec. 29 under a schedule hammered out by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Maryland Jockey Club.

The Maryland Racing Commission will have the schedule on the agenda for its Dec. 13 meeting, which had been planned for late November but was moved to December. The MRC must approve the plan.

The proposal calls for 168 days at Laurel Park, 12 at Pimlico Race Course and seven at the Maryland State Fair at Timonium. It's similar to the 2018 calendar but continues a trend by the MJC to add days at Laurel, which this year was approved for 159 racing program.

For seventh months of the year racing would be offered four days a week, primarily on a Thursday-through-Sunday schedule and several Monday holidays. When a Monday is added, the previous Thursday would be dark.

Five months would have racing three days a week with a few exceptions: March, June, July, September and December.

Unlike this year, January and February are slated for four-day weeks in 2019. The MJC said it hopes to have more horses stabled at Pimlico this winter to help fill cards.

The Laurel winter/spring meet would run from Jan. 1-May 4; Pimlico would race from May 9-27; the Laurel summer meet would follow from May 31-Aug. 18; Timonium is slotted for Aug. 23-Sept. 2; and the Laurel fall meet would span Sept. 6-Dec. 29.

Colonial Downs, which is under new ownership and plans to launch historical horse racing early next year, expects to offer 15 live racing programs in 2019 and, according to Daily Racing Form, is looking at late August and September dates for the meet. The Virginia Racing Commission has a meeting scheduled for Dec. 13.



Over 400 Meals Served to Backstretch

More than 400 turkey dinners were served to the Maryland backstretch community at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course the morning and afternoon of Thanksgiving.

The complimentary meals provided by the MTHA are a local tradition. They included stuffing, corn, greens, mashed potatoes and gravy, and cranberry sauce.

The meals, prepared by the Paz family, were served through noon at Pimlico and 3 p.m. at Laurel, which held holiday racing. The demand was so strong track kitchen staff began serving the meals earlier in the morning than planned.

The Maryland Jockey Club participated by providing free pies—apple or pumpkin—to backstretch workers as part of its pie giveaway on the front side.

January 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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March 2019						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2019						
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28	29	30				

May 2019						
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June 2019						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2019						
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28	29	30	31			

August 2019						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30					

October 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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27	28	29	30	31		

November 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Laurel Park (168) Timonium (7) Pimlico (12)

'Training for prevention of injury' topic of Maryland seminar hosted by Beyond The Wire program

Employing training methods that can help racehorses avoid injuries and suggestions on how to combat ulcers were the focus of the second informational seminar sponsored by Beyond The Wire and the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Nov. 6 at Laurel Park.

As part of its mission, Beyond The Wire, the Maryland Thoroughbred industry's aftercare program, aims to educate owners and trainers on management practices that can keep racehorses healthy and more likely to be suitable for second careers upon retirement. The program's initial seminar was held earlier this year, and plans call for seminars to become a regular offering.

"That's the plan," said Jessica Hammond, who administers Beyond The Wire. "I've already thought about other speakers and subjects for the future and have received suggestions from attendees. In my opinion it went really well. I was happy with both presenters—they discussed things that are applicable to training—and I was happy to see an increase in the number of trainers present compared with our first seminar."

The speakers Nov. 6 were Dr. Sue Stover of the University of California-Davis and Dr. Amy Burk of the University of Maryland. Along with providing information on the causes for injuries and ulcers, respectively, they recommended practices that can help combat them.

Stover, who is involved with the California Horse Racing Board post-mortem program, explained the importance of maintaining a healthy skeletal structure in lessening the chances of injury. She said distribution of material in bone affects strength, and that "repetitive loading" can cause stiffness, which reduces strength and can lead to injury.

Stover used the following example: Jogging or running on the beach at the water line, in the semi-wet area or on dry sand put different loads on human bone and work different muscles, and that's a good thing for training. Doing the same

thing over and over with little or no variations isn't optimal for growth.

"Training ideally strengthens bone," Stover said. "Overload causes micro-fracture generation and weakens bone. Training is an art. Too little training doesn't push the skeleton to develop, but too much pushes the process too far."

Stover said bone trains to the level of exercise, not to the amount of exercise; a short but vigorous workout—an eighth of a mile, for instance—is better for strengthening bone than consistent, methodical gallops.

"The highest loads guide training response but you only need 36 strides per day," she said. "You only need a little bit of damage to get the body to respond. The rest is trauma."

Stover also told horsemen that lameness really isn't the problem, it's just a sign of a problem caused by repetitive stress to the skeleton. Injuries, she said, can be associated with over-training.

Burk provided an overview of ulcers in horses and said they can develop through intermittent feed deprivation, limited turnout or confinement, and changes in routine. Signs of ulceration are change in temperament, change in eating patterns, poor performance on the track, colic symptoms and weight loss.

She said gastroscopy is the only means to be 100% sure a horse has ulcers, but that process can cost \$350-\$600 depending on the veterinarian. A common treatment is GastroGard (omeprazole), which can cost \$32 per dose every day for 28 days; Burk said within four weeks 92% of horses have ulcers again.

Burk said "feed management" is a way to reduce the risk of ulcer development—alfalfa, beet pulp and a reduction in high-starch products can be effective, as can slow-feed hay nets and making water available for horses at all times.

"Good feeding practices and housing management are the key to prevention," she said.



**Maryland
Pride**

Stop in the MTHA office at Laurel Park to pickup a free Maryland racehorse sticker.



Rec Report

MTHA Bowling League

Bowling will be starting soon and we still have a couple spots open if you are interested in playing. Please call Marty Leonard at 203-733-1367 and let him know if you are interested.

MTHA Express Van Service

The MTHA Express Van runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays to service horsemen who reside at Laurel Park and Pimlico. Please contact Dan at 410-802-5798 to sign up.

Poker

The next poker game will be played on Tuesday, December 18th and it will be played in the Laurel Park Rec Room. The November game was won by Bird Kaufman. Jose Betancourt finished in second and Jason Smith finished third.

With winter here, the importance of the MTHA's clothing drive is growing. Two collection bins are conveniently available at Laurel Park near the stable gate and horsemen's entrance with donations being distributed to backstretch workers in need.



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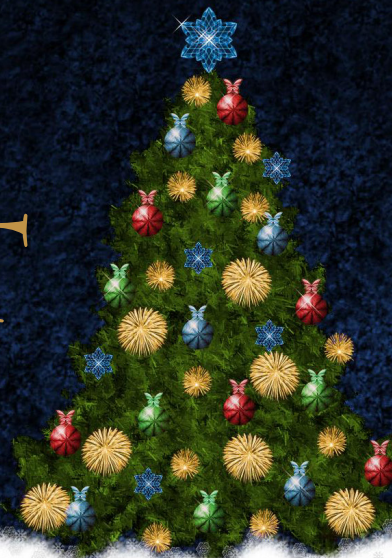
Thank you

A sincere thank you to Maryland Jockey Club for donating hundreds of fresh pies to Backstretch workers this Thanksgiving.

Our dedicated backstretch workers can enjoy a free

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Christmas morning at Pimlico and Laurel Park track kitchens
compliments of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's
Association and the Maryland Jockey Club.



MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

December 2018

STANDARD
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WESTMINSTER, MD

Obamacare Registration Assistance Provided



The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association will assist backstretch workers to learn more about and sign up for health care under the new Affordable Care Act.

For help in English or Spanish, stop in the MTHA racetrack office during live racing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call Bobby Lillis at 410-902-6843 or Jessica Hammond at 301-776-0404.

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