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New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station
EQUINE SCIENCE CENTER



Risk Management Plan Commencement of Harness Racing at The New Meadowlands Racetrack

East Rutherford, New Jersey May 1, 2020

The purpose of this plan is to create a viable, working solution to conduct live harness racing at The New Meadowlands Racetrack in the Spring/Summer of 2020. As is the practice with highly contagious equine disease travel prohibitions, (i.e., EHV-1) and to prevent cross-border travel and contamination, The New Meadowlands Racetrack will be responsible for and control entry from out-of-state horses and out-of-state personnel. The authors of this document reviewed the protocols that are in place at other tracks that are currently racing, including those in North America, as well as Sweden and Australia and New Zealand.

After examining what they have in place, we not only incorporated many of their procedures, but we fine-tuned ours to the point that we now feel that we have the safest and most complete and comprehensive protocol system possible.

In support of the many reasons for our appropriation, we are one industry that is capable of being very productive in these difficult times. We are essentially a safe and limited community in how we conduct our daily business. Horsemen and women are well-aware of the importance of safe practices, as their daily work habits are always directed at controlling the spread of disease and illness in their individual stables.

The breeding industry in NJ has effectively been “business as usual,” and racing itself can be conducted in a very similar fashion.

Racing, through the various on-line gambling platforms, will importantly provide significant needed income to New Jersey from the taxes generated on every wager that will be made. And based on the available gambling product, the Meadowlands racing would immediately be one of the most active simulcast signals generating substantial handle.

Through the Meadowlands Racetrack’s simulcasting, security, and surveillance capabilities, it will be the leader in exporting the signal of harness racing around the world. This will also provide continued employment resulting in payroll taxes.



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General Rules of Operation:

Personnel & Attendance

- No public shall be allowed in the grandstands or other general massing areas. No pari-mutuel wagering, as live handle, shall be conducted on the premises. No food vendors or distribution of food will be permitted in the paddock. Trainers, grooms, and drivers must bring their own beverages and food and keep them in their respective vehicles.
- Only essential paddock personnel shall be on-site, as well as trainers and essential care personnel (veterinarians, trainers, grooms, farriers). Base number of essential paddock personnel required to be at the location is approximately 12.
- Essential Paddock Personnel Includes:
 - Paddock Judge, Horse Identifier, Equipment/ Numbers Person, Outrider, and two Starting Car Persons; Security (both inside and outside of the paddock); Farrier, Veterinarians. Numbers could be placed in respective horses' stalls prior to the arrival of any horses.
 - No one other than the paddock judge should be in the paddock office at any given time.

Procedures

Track Security (including medical personnel) will remain outside of the paddock and will check in horses and take the temperatures of all personnel via "no-touch" laser thermometers.

Verification of licensure will occur upon arrival to the Secure Paddock Area (SPA). A roaming security person in the paddock would ensure that these procedures are followed.

- No visitors in the Secure Paddock Area will be permitted; this includes owners.
- Trainers/Grooms/Drivers shall be those holding a New Jersey license. Those with any underlying health issues or symptoms of illness should not come to the SPA under any circumstances. This includes any person with reason to be concerned for their health as per the latest New Jersey and US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.
- All participants planning to enter the SPA shall verify at home (per CDC guidelines) that they are not running a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit prior to leaving for the raceway.
- Trainers/Grooms will be limited to no more than three persons per ship-in party, and their racing staff shall be reduced to following ratio:
 - 1-2 horses – One Trainer **or** One Groom.
 - 3-4 horses – One Trainer **and** One Groom.
 - 5 + horses – One Trainer **and** up to Two Grooms maximum.
- Communications should be carried out electronically where possible. All participants shall always remain 6 feet away from others.
- The New Meadowlands Racetrack shall provide portable toilets to help with managing contact points. Participants in the SPA should take care to reduce the number of bathroom trips for everyone's safety.
- Trainers, grooms, and drivers must bring their own beverages and food and keep them in their respective vehicles.

Designated Personnel shall aid in the SPA by filling the following roles:



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- Providing protective gloves and sanitizer stations where possible.
- Monitoring that participants always remain 6 feet apart.
- Relaying information to the Paddock Judge.
- Pre-assigned “runners” shall provide hot water and other items for trainers by taking buckets into the paddock, filling them, then returning them to the trainer. This will reduce the amount of people touching surfaces. The “runners” shall always wear protective gloves and masks and remain 6 feet away from all participants. (Alternative – one person mans the faucets and will fill buckets that are left for them to grab and fill. The person manning the faucet must wear protective gloves and mask).

Racing Offices

Besides the Office of the Racing Secretary, other offices that would be allowed to operate would include the New Jersey Racing Commission, and the New Jersey Racing Commission Veterinary Office. Desks must be set to allow for social distancing, and all racing officials must wear Personal Protection Equipment.

- No agents will be allowed in the office
- Entries will be taken by telephone or online only
- Draw will be done via teleconference
- To reduce the number of personnel in the race office, the bookkeeper could work remotely, and claims entered could be handled by the racing secretary. Claims could be placed in a drop box outside of the race office.

Race Day Specific Activities upon Arrival – Trainers and Grooms

On race days, the following protocols shall be strictly adhered to:

Transportation

- Ship-In horses, approved by The Meadowlands Racetrack, are only allowed when accompanied by essential licensed personnel.
- Ship-In barns will be used as an extension of the paddock to ensure the proper number of stalls per trainer, with social distancing taken into account. As stated below, horses will be stalled in the paddock, grouped by trainer.
- Transportation into the stable area is only allowed between 5:00 PM and 11:00 PM daily.

Check-In

- Security personnel will log all those allowed to enter by name, license, date, and time.
- Upon entering the secure area and parking, all trainers, grooms, and drivers shall present themselves for temperature scanning by medical staff on site.
- Anyone with a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit shall immediately leave the paddock area and their horses will be scratched (NO EXCEPTIONS, SO PLEASE CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE BEFORE TRUCKING IN).



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- Upon passing the temperature scan, the trainer shall report to the paddock judge and report that the entries are on-site. Six feet of separation shall be maintained for this communication.

Paddock Procedures

Horses will be pre-assigned stalls in the paddock, which will be conveyed to the trainers upon their arrival. Horses will be grouped by trainer, to cut down on the number of handlers needed and to eliminate the need for co-mingling of personnel between racing stables. Empty stalls shall be put in between grooms. Trainers shall always keep to their side of the paddock and leave 6 feet between other participants.

- The procedure of the administration of Lasix will be determined by the New Jersey Racing Commission.
- Paddock Procedures should clearly state that anyone entering the paddock area, including officials, shall always wear face masks or a suitable face covering.
- Paddock Procedures should require that the paddock be configured to require that all people and horses move in the same direction (much like the "one way" aisles being used in grocery stores) to minimize contact.
- During hitching/unhitching of race bikes in the paddock, the horse's attendant will be permitted to hold the horse (at a safe distance away from the driver) while the driver hitches/unhitches the race bike.
- Warm-ups will not be permitted. Horses will go onto racetrack 10-12 minutes prior to post-time.
- No more than one person per horse (the "handler", no exceptions).
- Paddock and the testing barn will be disinfected after each race card.

Check-Out / Leaving

- After each race the paddock stall area is disinfected with a bleach solution.
- Thirty minutes after conclusion of the race, the handler must leave with the horse unless tending to other horses. Then the handler may remain and check on the horse.
- Horses and equipment shall either be washed at home (preferable) or outside the trainer's trailer or other pre-assigned area.
- Horses to be tested will be tested in the testing barn after the race.



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Race Day Specific Activities upon Arrival – Drivers

The following protocols shall be strictly adhered to:

Check-In

Upon entering the secure area and parking, all drivers shall present themselves for temperature scanning. Anyone with a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit shall immediately leave the paddock area.

- Drivers are encouraged to come prepared by having their colors on. Should drivers need to change, the drivers lounge may be available but with the following conditions:
 - Only two drivers in the locker room at a time. A safe distance of at least six feet must be maintained.
 - Drivers should vocally call out to see how many are in the locker room prior to entering the doorway.

Procedures

- There will be no winner's circle presentation or photo of the winning horse.
- While waiting between races, drivers should maintain social distancing protocols.

Check-Out / Leaving

- Upon the driver's last race of the day, he/she should leave the paddock immediately after notifying the paddock judge.