AGENDA
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MEETING
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
August 14, 2020
Starting Time 9:00 A.M.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/96493630765?pwd=SzFPK3g3RnVyVllLMDNPdGs4QWpWQT09
Meeting ID: 964 9363 0765
Passcode: 426545
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,96493630765# US (New York)
Dial In Number
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:  Michael Timmons, Chair

2. Consideration of an Emergency Amendment to Chapter 7. Chapter 7, Section 7.2.G requires any horse that breaks off a qualifying race to be placed on the Stewards List. The Maine Harness Horsemen’s Association believes the requirement is counterproductive and has requested that the provision be eliminated. The Commission will consider whether to approve the emergency amendment to waive the requirement on a temporary/emergency basis.

3. Consideration of an Emergency Amendment to Chapter 11. Chapter 11, Section 4.2.3.a requires horses to remain in the paddock following administration of furosemide. The Maine Harness Horsemen’s Association (MHHA) believes the requirement unnecessarily causes stress to the horses, given that furosemide is administered three hours prior to post time. Accordingly, the MHHA has requested that the provision be eliminated. The Commission will consider whether to approve the emergency amendment to waive the requirement on a temporary/emergency basis.

4. Request to Increase the Base Purse for the 2020 Sire Stakes Program. Chapter 9, Section 5 of the Commission’s rules requires the Commission to approve the base purse for the Sire Stakes program. The Commission approved a base purse of $3,500 at its June 30, 2020 meeting. Since that time, Maine’s 2 casinos have partially reopened, resulting in additional revenue for the program. Accordingly, the Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association is recommending that the base purse be increased going forward.

5. Churchill Downs, Inc. (CDI) Decision to Exclude Maine from Receiving its Racing Content Broadcasts. The staff at the Maine State Harness Racing Commission have received inquiries and complaints relating to a recent decision by Churchill Downs, Inc. to exclude Maine Harness Racing related businesses from accessing any of its racing content broadcast signals. Since CDI owns and operates several of the premier horse racing tracks in the United States, potential negative economic impacts on Maine’s harness racing industry are significant.

6. Other Business

7. Public Comment
8. Schedule of Future Meetings:

9. Adjourn