AGENDA
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MEETING

April 12, 2018
Gambling Control Board Conference Room
Department of Public Safety
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine
Starting Time 9:00 a.m.

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

2. Review and Approval of Minutes
   Review and Approval of Decision and Orders

3. Adjudicatory Hearings:
   a. RE: David Nelson, Complaint Number 2017 MSHRC 36. Mr. Nelson is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Mr. Nelson is the trainer of record for the horse “Bettor Angel”. A blood sample obtained from Bettor Angel following the Tenth Race at the Windsor Fair on September 1, 2017 disclosed an elevated level of Dexamethasone.
   b. RE: Karl Butterfield, Complaint Number 2018 MSHRC 01. Mr. Butterfield is appealing the Department’s denial of his 2018 driver/trainer license application. The Department issued a denial based on court records and records from another racing jurisdiction.

4. Review of the Rulemaking Comments and Hearing Record. On November 22, 2017, a Notice of Agency Rulemaking Proposal was published in Maine’s five daily newspapers marking the beginning of the official comment period for proposed amendments to Chapters 1, 3, 7, 11, 13, 15 and 17 of the Commission’s rules. The Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments December 14, 2017. The deadline for written comments was the close of business on December 29, 2017. The Commission has reviewed Chapters 1, 3, 7, 13 and 15 and directed the staff relative to which amendments to accept. Amendments to Chapters 1, 3, 13 and 15 have been adopted. The Commission will now review Chapters 11 and 17.

5. Request for Commission Approval to Conduct Special Series During 2018. Members of Maine’s harness racing industry and the Commission’s staff have been discussing the idea of hosting some specific racing series as a strategy to generate more interest, to boost marketing efforts—in the case of a potential “European Series”, as a precursor to efforts at exporting Maine’s racing signal to other countries. The MHHA and the Commission’s staff are seeking Commission approval to host at least three different racing series during 2018:
   • A “European Series” which involves at least 10 horses and a race distance of 1 ¼ miles;
   • A “Young Gun” series that would feature Maine’s youngest drivers; and
   • An “Always a Bridesmaid” series which will feature horses that have yet to win or otherwise are generally excluded from any significant winnings.
The Commission would have to approve the “European Series” (and possibly a minor rule amendment) because Chapter 7 limits the number of starters in an overnight event. The Commission would also need to approve the other two series because there is sentiment that the purse structure for these series should be altered to allow purse payments to more than the top five finishers in order to incentivize participation for the duration of the series.

6. **Discussion About the Commission Purchasing Head-On Cameras**

At the Judges training on March 2, 2018, Michael Hall played a number of videos to facilitate discussion of various judges calls. Videos from other jurisdictions often include a head-on camera shot in the home stretch. The head-on camera provides a vantage point that better illustrates the relative position of the horses and drivers from a cross-section perspective. Some participants voiced support for acquiring head-on cameras in Maine. Moreover, there was discussion that the Commission may support allocation of funds for that purpose.

7. **Update on Collaborative Efforts to Improve Consistency of Judges Calls**

Another outcome of the March 2 Judges meeting was that there was sentiment for trying to work collaboratively to improve consistency on the Judges calls covering racing violations at different tracks. The HRC staff has conducted follow-up discussions and a subsequent Judges Meeting was held on March 29, 2018. Discussions focused on three common types of Judges calls: whipping, posture and foot out of stirrup. The staff will update the Commission on its discussions.

8. **Other Business:**

a. Continued discussion regarding the Commission’s Consent Agreement Policy

8. **Public Comment**

9. **Schedule of Future Meetings:**
April 25, 2018

10. **Adjourn**