

**Ontario
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Notice to the Industry

ORC seeks comment on proposed rule change Licensing of Horsepersons Organizations

At its meeting on October 25, 2011, the Board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) considered a proposed rule change affecting the Rules of Racing in Ontario. Prior to approving a Directive authorizing the change, the ORC is seeking public input on the proposed rule changes.

To be considered, comments or submissions on the proposed changes must be received **by December 2, 2011**, by mail, fax or email at inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca.

New federal requirements for provincial approval of horsepersons organizations

The new Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) regulations coming into effect on January 1, 2012, require a racetrack to provide evidence of an agreement with the horsepersons who have been approved by the provincial racing commission.

The new federal regulations state the following:

Section 3(1)(c)

No association shall conduct pari-mutuel betting unless the association, if it conducts 10 or more days of racing per year, has provided

- i) a racing license issued by the appropriate Commission,*
- ii) the race dates approved by the appropriate Commission,*
- iii) evidence of an executed agreement for the period of the proposed pari-mutuel betting, between the association and the **horsepersons who have been approved by the appropriate Commission**, addressing the sharing of revenues between the association and those horsepersons*

The regulations have defined "horseperson" as:

"any person, group or organization that has an interest in the sharing of purses drawn from an association's percentage and the scheduling of races by the association but does not include an officer or employee of an association"

ORC mechanism for approval is licensing

Approval of a horseperson's organization will be achieved through the issuance of a licence by the ORC. When a licence has been approved and issued by the Director, the ORC will advise the CPMA.

Proposed Rule:

Where an Association has entered into an agreement with a horsepeople's organization, representing participants racing at that facility, that horsepeople's organization must be licensed by the Commission.

Once a horseperson's organization is licensed, the ORC would be in a position to advise the CPMA that the organization has been "approved" (and for the purposes of the ORC, "approval" means "licensed") and meets the definition of "horseperson" as interpreted by the Director.

John Blakney
Executive Director