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Notice to the Industry

ORC seeks input on new rules for Apprentice Trainers

At its meeting on December 22, 2011, the Board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) will consider a proposed rule change affecting the Standardbred Rules of Racing in Ontario. Prior to approving the directive for rule change, the ORC is seeking public input.

To be considered, comments or submissions on the proposed changes must be received **by December 19, 2011**, by mail, fax or email at inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca.

New requirements for “Apprentice” Trainer Licence

Working with Standardbred Canada, a new program has been created for the accreditation of new trainers. The objectives of the new program are:

- To bring all licensed trainers and prospective trainer participants to a level of professionalism and guide them in their development.
- To strengthen the trainer accreditation process, and establish a testing structure that is both practical and written, based on horsemanship, equipment, business practices and the rules and regulations.
- To provide trainers with a guide that will serve as a reference tool, to include a formal set of procedures for the business of training.

As previously required, a prospective trainer will have to work as a groom for a period of two years before challenging the trainer examination. New, however, is that having successfully completed the written examination, the proponent will have to apply to become a “C” apprentice trainer where he or she must be mentored by an “A” trainer for a period of six months.

After the 6 months, the apprentice trainer must also successfully complete a practical examination and achieve a passing grade of 90% before being eligible to apply for an upgrade to an “A” trainer.

The trainer must hold the “C” licence for a minimum of six months before he/she can apply for an upgrade to the “A” category of trainer licence.

Those trainers who currently hold an “A” licence will not be required to complete the new accreditation program.

Proposed Rule Change
(change in bold)

Rule 26.01 A person shall not train horses, or be programmed as trainer of record at extended meetings, without first having obtained a trainer licence valid for the current year by meeting the standards for trainers, as **required** by Standardbred Canada or the United States Trotting Association and being licensed by the Commission. The holder of a driver's licence issued by Standardbred Canada or the United States Trotting Association is entitled to all privileges of a trainer and is subject to all rules respecting trainers. Valid categories of licences are:

- (a) A, a full licence valid for all meetings and permitting operation of a public stable.
- (b) **C, an apprentice licence valid for all meetings and permitting operation of a public stable, subject to satisfactory performance and ongoing approval of the Judges. The Judges may impose any conditions as deemed appropriate. This licence must be held for a minimum period of six months before applying to the Judges for an upgrade to an "A" licence.**
- ~~(b)~~ (c) F, a licence restricted to the training of horses while owned by the holder and/or his or her immediate family at all race meetings. **Any "F" trainer who wishes to upgrade his/her licence must first upgrade to "C". If the trainer has satisfied the requirements of the "C" licence in the past, at the discretion of the Judges that trainer may be upgraded to "A".**

Judges Authority to Downgrade a Licence

A similar rule exists in the Chapter for Drivers. The addition of this rule makes the Judge's authority to amend, downgrade or attach conditions to a trainer's licence consistent with the authorities regarding drivers.

Proposed Rule Change:

Rule 26.01.01 The Judges may review the performance of a trainer at any time and may take the following actions:

- (i) **amend the licence category;**
- (ii) **recommend that the Director revoke the licence;**
- (iii) **apply conditions to the licence, or**
- (iv) **require the trainer to re-qualify for his or her licence in accordance with Standardbred Canada regulations.**

John L. Blakney
Executive Director