



## **ELIGIBILITY RULE UPDATE FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S THOROUGHBRED RACETRACKS**

**EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2022**

Per the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

### **Poor Performance Ineligibility Rule**

- Any horse that finishes more than twelve (12) lengths behind the winner in five (5) consecutive starts, after February 28, 2022, will be ineligible to start in a race at a thoroughbred racetrack in the state of Pennsylvania.
- Horses deemed ineligible under this rule may reestablish eligibility in another jurisdiction.
- Due to mitigating circumstances, the owner or trainer of a horse deemed ineligible under this rule may be given one additional start to restore eligibility by appealing the ruling to the Racing Panel at the track the horse was deemed ineligible. All appeals must be requested and approved prior to entry. For the purposes of this rule, the Racing Panel shall be the Racing Secretary, a representative of the Horsemen's Group, the presiding State Steward and State Veterinarian.
- Horses granted eligibility under the appeal process will have one start to reestablish eligibility.
- This rule shall not prohibit the racing association from exercising its right to refuse the entry of any horse that the racing association deems uncompetitive and/or unfit for racing.

The additional PA SHRC (Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission) Equine Safety & Welfare Actions will be implemented as staffing and technology issues are solved moving forward. The PA SHRC is working to fill the staffing requirements to monitor morning workouts and review horses for their removal from the vets list. Several of the initiatives require regulatory changes that are currently under revision. We will notify prior to the implementation of the additional initiatives.

Thank you, and please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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