

2025 PROPOSED RULE AND BYLAW CHANGES

*The following proposed rule and bylaw changes will be considered by the membership at each district's annual meeting and will be voted on by the USTA Board of Directors at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Additions are **bold underlined**; deletions are ~~struck out~~.*

1. A proposal to amend existing Rules 4.34 Corresponding Officer and 8.07 Designation of Corresponding Officer and add new Rule 26.33 Ownership Percentages:

4.34 Corresponding Officer.—The person designated by all members of a stable, farm or corporation as per Rule 8.07 to sign documents on their behalf relative to the registration and/or transfer of ownership of a horse.

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8.07 Designation of Corresponding Officer.—Each member of a registered farm, corporation, stable, or stallion syndicate should sign a document designating the name and address of the corresponding officer thereof. As used in Rule 8, the word “corporate” name shall include the name of a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust, and any other recognized legal entity. The corresponding officer shall be determined by:

- (a) The individual with the largest share of ownership of the horse after the partnership/stable has been established; or,
 - (b) In the case of equal share ownership or in partnership entities where the corresponding offer has no ownership, the corresponding officer shall be determined upon and agreed to by all participants of the partnership/stable after it has been established.
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26.33 Ownership Percentages.—The percentage of ownership within a registered entity i.e., corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust, farm, stable, stallion syndicate and/or any other recognized legal entity shall be recorded on the transfer of ownership or the registration papers and posted on Pathway of the said horse. All transfers, and/or changes to s registration that take place thereafter will be represented on the prior owner's section of the basic horse report on Pathway. Ownership of the horse, however it will be orchestrated, is to be notarized, and sent to the USTA, by means of an electronically scanned hard copy of the transfer of ownership. The transfer of ownership application shall include the notation of ownership percentages. Distribution of race winning funds are to be distributed according to the ownership percentage as represented on the USTA registration.

Sponsor: Jon P. Wiesman, Middle River, MD

[The sponsor states: “Most racetracks and/or state racing commissions already distribute accordingly, this rule will streamline within the regulatory bounds of the USTA. A scenario: Trainer buys a horse at a sale and sells off pieces of the horse to make up a stable or partnership. In most cases, the trainer retains a very small percentage of the horse. The trainer files the paperwork with the USTA and they automatically become the said ‘corresponding officer’ and subsequently are listed ‘first’ on the registration papers. In the eyes of the USTA, whoever is listed first automatically becomes the ‘controlling’ officer of the stable or partnership. In most cases, the other owners/partners in the horse have little or no say, and are basically held hostage until someone either buys them out at a dramatically reduced value, the horse is sold in a public auction, or the situation is handled in court; this could be construed as ‘restraint of free trade.’ Bad partnerships, where the owners have no say over the trainer, hurt the business, the corresponding officer should be based upon ownership percentage and/or designated by a vote of the partners as to who will be listed on the registration as the corresponding officer. This protects the members of the partnership/stable from being ‘boxed-in’ when they have no say; this should eliminate excess paperwork and phone calls from troubled partners of a partnership/stable calling the USTA with their grievance because the partners now have an out. Having a set of rules/guidelines could very well reduce this situation and maybe keep more people in the sport. A new person to the Standardbred industry, especially a businessperson, would say, ‘Once and done, no more for me,’ and then the industry as a whole loses because of one bad situation that could

have been totally avoided. I believe this rule change, if approved, will do more to 'pre-resolve' disputes, not to mention lessen the interaction of the USTA where owners expect their governing body to resolve their problems.”]

2. A proposal to amend current Rule 5.09 Photo Finish, Head Numbers, Starting Gate to re-institute the use of head numbers at extended pari-mutuel tracks (the previous rule to disallow the use of head numbers at extended pari-mutuel tracks was approved by the board in 2018):

5.09 Photo Finish, Head Numbers—Starting Gate.—At all member tracks where pari-mutuel wagering is allowed, a photo finish, head numbers and starting gate must be used. ~~Head numbers shall not be permitted at extended pari-mutuel tracks. At non-extended meetings/fairs, the use of head numbers is permitted.~~ At all extended pari-mutuel meetings the track member must provide for a back-up starting gate. Photo finish equipment shall not be acceptable unless a stationary camera, mounted above the finish wire and perpendicular to the race track, is employed along with a spinner or stationary target or acceptable software application shall be used. In addition, no camera utilizing a shutter between the film and the race track during the actual finish of a race or which has a field of view greater than 12 inches at the finish line shall be considered acceptable equipment. It shall be the duty of the presiding judge to verify that the photo finish equipment is in working order prior to each racing program.

Sponsor: Sharon Seanor, Batavia, NY

[The sponsor states: *“In my time as charter and program director, head numbers are a way to properly call a race. I don’t understand why they were made a prohibited item to begin with. Saturday (8/24/24) at Batavia we had the biggest race of the meet, NYSS not included, going for \$100,000. As they bunched up three and four deep at the 3/4 pole and the top of the stretch, I had so many multiple calls, I had all three judges confirm my chart - which to me is the worst call in my lifetime! No part of the number or even saddle pad was visible. Head numbers would have changed the event. This also happens in other races but not like this particular Saturday.”]*

3. A proposal to amend current Rule 5.15 Warming Up Horses to note trainer responsibility and age requirement:

5.15 Warming Up Horses.—At all member tracks the presiding judge shall be responsible to see that wherever possible a minimum period of two hours is allocated for the warming up of horses immediately preceding the beginning of each racing program. The trainer is responsible for ensuring that the individual warming up possesses the necessary qualifications, both mental and physical, to perform the duties required and is at least 14 years of age.

Sponsor: Samuel Beegle, District 7 Director

[The sponsor states: *“Safety.”]*

4. A proposal to amend current Rule 6.11 Duties of the Judges (d) to add verbiage regarding the reporting of horses involved in on-track incidents (accidents) as follows:

6.11 Duties of the Judges—

(d) Conduct an investigation of any accidents to determine the cause thereof, and the judges shall completely fill out an accident report and transmit mail to the USTA office. Judges shall report to the association the details of the incident for each horse involved. In connection with the investigation of an accident the judges shall have the authority to require any driver or other person involved in the accident to submit to testing for the personal use of alcohol and/or drugs.

Sponsor: TC Lane, USTA Staff

[The sponsor states: “*The Equine Health and Wellness Database (EHWD) will allow the industry to identify clusters and types of racing injuries, help all of us investigate the causes, and act as a data repository that can be mined when developing safety measures and policies going forward.*”]

5. A proposal to amend current Rule 13.05 Purse Money Distribution to add new subsection (g) to distribute \$30 from a winning horse’s earnings to the track photographer at pari-mutuel tracks:

(g) The amount of thirty dollars shall be allocated from the winning horse’s purse earnings to be distributed to the track photographer. Each registered owner, or the registered owner listed first in a partnership, shall receive two win pictures mailed to their home address.

Sponsor: Carl T. Howard, Powell, OH

[The sponsor states: “*The justification is that the track photographer, whether it is a perfect day or minus 10 degrees outside, is behind the scenes working every race. They are a working part of our industry that I believe go under appreciated. Most of the time they are working 12-16 race cards and many, if not most time, they have no one show up in the winner’s circle. As an owner, I cannot make it to the track on most days or nights and I think this would be a fair outcome to keep the track photographer in place.*”]

6. A proposal to amend current Rule 14.03(b) Length of Race and Number of Heats to add verbiage on racing two-year-olds:

14.03 Length of Race and Number of Heats.

(b) Two-Year-Old—Two-year-olds must have at least three days in between race days. No two-year-old shall be permitted to start in a heat or race exceeding one mile in distance and no two-year-old shall be permitted to race in more than ONE heat or dash in any single day. Starting any two-year-old in violation of this rule shall subject the track member to a fine and the winnings of such two-year-old shall be declared unlawful.

Sponsor: Mike Sweeney, District 2 Director; Doug Thomas, OSRC Presiding Judge; TC Lane, USTA Staff

[The sponsors state: “*Currently, there are no prohibitions which restrict the time in between starts, therefore can race every day of the week, based upon the existing regulations. The question and concerns from our members, racing officials and concerned fans around the country continue to be brought to the attention of the USTA. As we take additional steps toward the protection of our horses, this proposal works toward establishing a baseline to prevent our two-year-olds from being raced too frequently. For example, with the proposal, a horse may race on Monday and back on Friday.*”]

7. A proposal to amend current Rule 14.03 Length of Race and Number of Heats to add new subsection (b) and re-number current (b) to (c) to add a limit to the number of purse starts any horse may have in one calendar year:

14.03 Length of Race and Number of Heats.—Races or heats shall be given at a stated distance in units not shorter than a sixteenth of a mile.

(a) The length of a race and the number of heats shall be stated in the conditions for the race. If no distance or number of heats are specified all races shall be at a single mile except at county fairs and meetings of six days or more where the race will be conducted in two heats at one-mile distance.

(b) Horses will have a start cap with the number of purse races they may compete in a calendar year by age - two-year-olds - 20 starts, three-year-olds - 25 starts and aged horses - 35 starts.

(c) Two-Year-Old—No two-year-old shall be permitted to start in a heat or race exceeding one mile in distance and no two-year-old shall be permitted to race in more than two heats or dashes in any single day. Start-

ing any two-year-old in violation of this rule shall subject the track member to a fine and the winnings of such two-year-old shall be declared unlawful.

Sponsors: Joel Milby, Jack Remy and James Mitchell, USTA licensed judges

[The sponsors state: “Many horses who compete in 40+ starts a year experience issues later in their racing life and after they retire, including lameness, injury and other miscellaneous issues. Limiting the number of purse starts will preserve the health and welfare of the horse, giving them more time to rest and recover between starts.”]

8. A proposal to amend current Rule 17.04(c)(1) Minimum Driving Requirements for Advancement to a “P” Provisional Driver License to require at least three starts on both the trot and pace prior to the consideration for an upgrade:

(c) “P” Provisional—A license valid for fairs, matinees, qualifying races and extended pari-mutuel meetings subject to satisfactory performance.

1. Minimum Driving Requirements for Advancement to a “P” Provisional Driver License.—Applicants for a provisional “P” license will only be considered for such a license when they have obtained at least 12 satisfactory qualifying drives within the current previous 12-month period or 15 such drives within the current previous two year period and the approval of the presiding judge and the track committee. “Q/F” drivers must have at least three starts on both the trot and pace to be considered eligible for an upgrade. Amateur races conducted at extended pari-mutuel member tracks may be considered as qualifying races for the purpose of meeting this requirement. Drivers holding a qualifying fair “Q/F” license will not be considered for advancement to a provisional “P” license until he or she has had at least six months driving experience while holding a qualifying fair “Q/F” license, or have at least three months driving experience while holding a qualifying fair “Q/F” license and 24 satisfactory qualifying drives and the unanimous written consent of the presiding judge and the members of the local track committee.

Sponsor: Vincent Gargano, Blackwood, NJ

[The sponsor states: “Trotters drive different than pacers and it’s important for a driver to experience this.”]

9. A proposal to amend current Rule 18.04 Placing of Horse by the Judges:

18.04 Placing of Horse by the Judges.—In case of interference, collision or violation of any of the above restrictions, whether occurring before or after the start, the judges may place the offending horse back one or more positions in that heat or race, and in the event of such collision or interference, ~~prevents any horse from finishing the heat or race;~~ the offending horse may be disqualified from receiving any winnings; all horses involved in the incident may be refunded for wagering purposes and race for purse money only; and the driver may be fined not to exceed the amount of the purse or stake contended for, or may be suspended or expelled. In the event a horse is set back under the provisions hereof he must be placed behind the horse with which he interfered.

Sponsor: Michael Hall, Sun City West, AZ

[The sponsor states: “There are differing opinions on this matter and it is not addressed specifically. No horse who causes interference should be allowed to finish ahead of any horse with whom it interfered. Horses involved in pre-start interference should be refunded to protect the wagering public but remain eligible for purse earnings.”]

10. A proposal to amend sections (b), (c), (e), (h), and (l) of current Rule 18.21 Sulky Performance Standards/Approval as follows and add new subsection (m) Material Documentation and Traceability:

18.21 Sulky Performance Standards/Approval.—

(a) unchanged

(b) General Provisions

1. The sulky shall not create either by design or manufacture any interference or hazard to any driver or horse in a race.
2. All components of the sulky shall be attached to one another in such a way that they remain attached during normal use and testing.
3. ~~No bent shaft style sulky shall be approved for use.~~

(c) Shafts

1. Each sulky shall be equipped with two shafts that are attached independent of one another to the horse. Each shaft may have one vertical bend. ~~No vertical bend beyond 12" from the hitching point is permitted.~~
2. Inside to inside measurement shall be within a range of 42" to 50" at the front of the arch. (Also see—§ 18.21(e) (1))
3. All shafts will be equipped with quick-hitch fixtures ~~or attachable by conventional tie-downs~~. All quick-hitches shall have safety straps.

(d) *unchanged*

(e) Fork

1. Inside measurement between the inside fork assemblies shall be no less than 2.5" 4" and no greater than 4.5" ~~but no more than 8" greater than the inside measurement between the shafts as measured at the front of the arch.~~ (Fork measurements taken from the inside of each side of the arch at the axle nuts).
2. There shall be a fork assembly on both sides of each wheel. (Also See— Subsection (c) 2.)

(f) *unchanged*

(g) *unchanged*

(h) Wheels/Tires

1. Each sulky shall contain two wheels.
2. The wheels shall be 26" to 28" with tire attached.
3. All wheels that require discs shall be covered by wheel disc covers constructed in such a manner so that they are light weight and durable.
4. Wheel discs shall be either solid one-color or colorless.

(i) *unchanged*

(j) *unchanged*

1. The sulky must be attached to either side of the horse by an approved method with each shaft hooked separately on each side as described in Section (c) (3).
2. The forward ends of the sulky shaft shall not project beyond the shoulder of the horse.
3. The shafts shall not be higher than the withers of the horse.

(k) *unchanged*

(l) **Other Provisions.—**

1. Any change of name to a previously approved sulky must be reported to the USTA within 30 days by submitting a signed affidavit indicating the previous and current name of the sulky model. Failure to submit an affidavit within 30 days shall result in a fine of \$1,000.
2. A change of ownership to a sulky manufacturing company must be reported to the USTA within 30 days of sale by submitting a signed affidavit by the former and new owner. Failure to submit an affidavit within 30 days shall result in a fine of \$1,000 to both parties.
3. In the event a previously approved sulky is **significantly** modified in any way, including but not limited to change in materials used or any change to style, such modification must be reported to the USTA and the modified version may be required to undergo additional performance testing at the expense of the manufacturer. Failure to submit any modification shall result in a fine of \$5,000.

(m) Material Documentation and Traceability.—

1. **Annual Reporting Requirement: All sulky manufacturers are required to submit material purchase orders to the USTA at least once per year. These purchase orders must detail the types, grades, and specifications of the metals used in the production of sulkies, including but not limited to shafts, stirrups, and arch bars.**
2. **Data Sheet Submission upon Request: In the event of a major equipment failure, the USTA reserves the right to**

request the production of detailed material data sheets from the manufacturer providing a complete audit trail, ensuring transparency and accountability in manufacturing practices.

3. Material Testing Authority: The USTA reserves the right to conduct material tests on components from a failed sulky to verify that the materials match those provided when the sulky was originally approved, as well as those outlined in the submitted data sheets. This testing ensures the integrity and consistency of materials used in sulky manufacturing.

Sponsor: Tim Betts(CEO, UFO Bikes LLC), Canonsburg, PA

[The sponsor states: “Recent developments, including an increased number of accidents, have prompted me to revisit a subject I considered some time ago: the necessity for a robust, comprehensive program that diligently documents the materials used by sulky manufacturers. I’m envisioning something akin to the quality control and traceability practices employed by pharmaceutical companies to ensure the integrity of their raw material batches. Understanding the importance of transparency and accountability in our industry, UFO is fully prepared to lead this initiative. I believe this could fundamentally transform our manufacturing approach, setting a new standard for the industry. Metal suppliers are more than capable of providing material invoices and data sheets that detail the specifics of the materials they supply, such as type, thickness, and quality. This documentation could be maintained for every component of the sulky—whether shafts, stirrups, or arch bars—offering a complete audit trail from raw materials to the finished product. We are at an opportune moment to take a step that could significantly enhance the safety of our sport through improved manufacturing practices, thereby reinforcing the trust our consumers place in us. I am confident that the committee will recognize the value of moving forward with such an initiative.”]

11. A proposal to amend current Rule 18 Racing and Racetrack Rules to add new sub-section 18.25 and renumber current 18.25 to 18.26 in regard to the color of outriding horses as follows:

18.25 Outrider Horse.—Gray or white horses shall not be used as outriding horses.

Sponsor: Robert Stewart, Lexington, KY

[The sponsor states: “There is no reason to put horses on the track that scare certain horses when you don’t have to.”]

12. A proposal to amend current Rule 20.13 Trainer Responsibility for Horse Safely Equipped to clarify the definition of equipment:

20.13 Trainer Responsibility for Horse Safely Equipped.—It shall be the responsibility of the trainer to see that each horse under his supervision is safely equipped for each race and if it is determined by the judges that a horse has been raced with unsafe or faulty equipment the judges may impose a fine, suspension or both. The definition of equipment is what a horse wears to race. The definition does not include the saddle pads that are required to be attached to the harness prior to the respective race.

Sponsor: Robert J. McHugh, Norwood, MA

[The sponsor states: “The reason for the proposed rule change is due to judges fining our horsemen and women at Plainridge Racecourse for not taping the saddle pads correctly to the harness, which has caused them to either fall off or detach from the equipment during the race. Further, the judges expanded the definition of equipment in the ruling to include saddle pads.”]

13. A proposal to amend current Rule 21 Medication and Drugs by renaming as Medication and Methods and to add new sub-section 21.13 regarding the use of shock wave and radial pulse wave therapy:

21.13 The possession and use of Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ESWT) or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy (RPWT) shall be limited to licensed veterinarians or to a registered veterinary technician under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The use by an unauthorized individual under this sub-section shall include but not be limited to a fine, suspension or revocation of membership with this Association.

(a) The use of EWST or RPWT within the jurisdiction shall be permissible if the following are met:

1. Shall be limited to veterinarians licensed to practice in their respective state;

2. Must be reported to the proper state or regulatory authority prior to treatment on the prescribed form, signed by the attending veterinarian and the owner and/or trainer, to the presiding judge.

(b) Any treated horse shall not be permitted to race for a minimum of 4 days following treatment.

(c) A horse that receives any such treatment without full compliance with this section and similar rules in any other jurisdiction in which the horse was treated shall be placed on the steward's list.

(d) Any person participating in the use of EWST or RPWT and/or possession of ESWT or RPWT machines in violation of this rule shall be considered to have committed a prohibited practice and is subject to a fine, suspension or revocation of membership with this Association.

Sponsors: Dr. Andy Roberts, District 6 Director; TC Lane, USTA Staff

[The sponsors state: “*The USTA does not have specific language prohibiting or the regulation involving the possession and use of Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ESWT) or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy (RPWT). This proposal establishes a baseline and in line with the ARCI model rules and the various regulatory agencies throughout the country.*”]

The following rule and bylaw change proposals (numbers 14-17) have been submitted by Joe Faraldo, Chairperson of the USTA Board:

14. Rule 21.01 Testing of Horses:

21.01 Testing of Horses.—The testing of horses at pari-mutuel meetings and certain non-pari-mutuel meetings is **generally under the primary jurisdiction** governed by the rules of the applicable state racing commission or other state regulatory body. Nevertheless the judges at any other meetings **under the jurisdiction of the USTA have** ~~may~~ with the approval or authorization of the Executive Vice President **may** order any horse in any heat or race to be subjected to a blood or urine test for the purpose of determining thereby the presence of any drug, stimulant, depressant, sedative or other unapproved medication. The rules of the applicable racing authority or other governmental agency shall **have primary jurisdiction** govern.

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15. Rule 21.02 Collection of Test Sample/Split Sample:

21.02 Collection of Test Sample/Split Sample.—During the taking of the urine or other sample by the veterinarian, the owner, trainer or authorized agent **shall** ~~may~~ be present. Samples so taken shall be placed in two containers and shall immediately be sealed and the evidence of such sealing indicated thereon by the signature of the representative of the owner or trainer. One part of the sample is to be placed in a depository under the supervision of the presiding judge and/or any other agency the racing authority may designate to be safeguarded until such time as the report on the chemical analysis of the other portion of the split sample is received.

Should a positive report be received, an owner or trainer shall have the right to have the other portion of the split sample inserted in with a subsequent group being sent for testing or may demand that it be sent to another chemist for analysis, the cost of which will be paid by the party requesting the test.

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16. Rule 21.03 Report of Positive Test Finding:

21.03 **Report of Positive Test Finding.**—Whenever at a non-pari-mutuel meeting there is a positive test finding any drug, stimulant, depressant, sedative or other unapproved medication present in the post race test the laboratory shall immediately notify the presiding judge who shall immediately report such findings to the USTA Executive Vice-President.

The Harness Racing Medication Collaborative has been established as the entity to develop thresholds and/or screening levels for medications in use in harness racing. The threshold and/or screening levels constituting the basis for a positive test shall be set and be applicable pursuant to the currently established levels as set by the Harness Racing Medication Collaborative upon the effective date of publication and notice sent to USTA members.

When such positive report is received by the presiding judge, the persons held responsible shall be notified and a time shall be set by the judges for a hearing to dispose of the matter. The time set for the hearing shall not exceed four racing days after the responsible persons were notified. The hearing may be continued if in the opinion of the judges' circumstances justify such action.

Should the chemical analysis of urine or other sample of the post-race test taken from a horse indicate the presence of any drug, stimulant, depressant, sedative or other unapproved medication it shall be considered prima facie evidence that such has been administered to the horse. The horse shall stand suspended for the duration of its trainer's suspension if any up to a maximum of 30 days. However, other horses registered under the care of such trainer may with the consent of the judges of the meeting be released to the care of another licensed trainer and may race.

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17. Rule 21.06 Trainer Held Responsible as the Absolute Insurer

21.06 **Trainer Held Responsible as the Absolute Insurer.**—A trainer shall be responsible at all times for the condition of all horses trained by him/her. No trainer shall start a horse or permit a horse in his/her custody to be started if he/she knows, or if by the exercise of reasonable care he/she might have known or have cause to believe, that the horse has received any drug, stimulant, depressant, sedative or other unapproved medication that could result in a positive test. Every trainer must guard or cause to be guarded each horse trained by him/her in such manner and for such period of time prior to racing the horse so as to prevent any person not employed by or connected with the owner or trainer from administering any drug, stimulant, sedative, depressant or other unapproved medication that might result in a post-race positive test. Whenever a trainer of a horse names a substitute trainer for program purposes due to his/her inability to be in attendance with the horse on the day of the race or for any other reason, the programmed trainer shall be responsible for the condition for the horse testing positive both trainers shall be responsible for the condition of the horse should the horse test positive. For the purpose of this section, the trainer of record (programmed trainer) shall be any individual who receives any compensation for training the horse or who made the declaration to enter and he or she shall remain presumptively responsible for the condition of the horse testing positive.

18. A proposal to amend current Rule 26.03 Breeding Requirements to change the verbiage in the fifth paragraph on the total mares bred to a stallion standing in the United States that has never bred a mare or had a list of mares bred filed previously shall not exceed 160 as follows:

26.06 Breeding Requirements.—

The total mares bred to a stallion standing in the United States that has never bred a mare or had a list of mares bred filed previously shall not exceed 160 140.

Sponsor: David Reid, Briarcliff Manor, NY

[The sponsor states: "To improve the standardbred breed by enabling a higher number of mares bred while maintaining the parameters of genetic diversity within our breed. With 15 years of the number of registered foals since the 140 mares bred limit was instituted has in effect over corrected the limit of foals a stallion. This amendment will provide an opportunity for all stallions, regardless of fertility, to prolong their breeding career while at the same time increasing diversity in the breed. In practice, each Stallion manager or corresponding officer will be required to evaluate individual stallion statistics to manage the stallion's book accordingly. By this increase, this

would lead towards more harmonization within the North American Standardbred breeding industry. We can safely increase the book by 20 mares and still be below the 140 concerns and would ease mares being replaced that have reproductive issues. Additionally, a review of the current fines could be reviewed with the increase.”]

19. A proposal to add new Rule 26.24 regarding the Prohibition of Ovum Pick Up/Intra-cytoplasmic Sperm Injection Procedures and renumber current Rules 26.24-26.30:

26.24 Prohibition of Ovum Pick Up/Intra-cytoplasmic Sperm Injection Procedures .— Beginning with foals of 2026, no foal shall be eligible for registration that was a result of an Ovum Pick Up (OPU)/Intra-cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (“ICSI”) procedure.

Sponsors: USTA Registration Scientific Advisory Committee - Dr. John Mossbarger, Chairperson

[The sponsors state: “The Committee has suggested that this procedure is not in the best interest of the registry at this time, as they have expressed that it shall lead to a higher potential for genetic engineering and gene doping on embryos, which would affect the integrity of the studbook. Additionally, the delegates of the 2023 World Trotting Conference in Berlin, Germany had prohibited this procedure.”]

20. A proposal to amend Article 1.14 of the Association bylaws to add new subsection (c) (and re-letter current (c) to (d)) in regard to electronic voting on rule change proposals by members as follows:

1.14 Voting Privileges of Members.—

(a) Track members other than pari-mutuel track members in good standing.

(b) Active members in good standing on September 30th of each year shall each have one vote at the next annual district meeting of the members.

(c) Member voting, from all districts, on rule change proposals will be by electronic vote, with the option of a paper ballot only by request. Access to vote would be through a USTA member account, via a secure platform, and would take place from October 1 to February 1 prior to the next annual Board Meeting. Voting results, by district, will be shared publicly by the USTA.

(de) Extended pari-mutuel tracks will vote as set forth in article 4.05.

Sponsors: Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, District 2 Chairperson; Russell Williams, USTA President; Joe Faraldo, USTA Chairperson of the Board; Mark Loewe, USTA Vice-Chairperson of the Board

[The sponsors state: “Online voting will provide opportunity for increased member participation in the rule change proposal process. Results, by district, would be made public. USTA would post online a video preview and simple explanation of the proposals for member viewing. A town hall forum, including USTA directors and staff, scheduled prior to the vote date would provide opportunity for member dialog and questions.”]

21. A proposal to amend Article 3.01 Annual District Meeting of the Association bylaws to remove the dates for which a district meeting must be held:

3.01 Annual District Meeting.—There shall be held within each district and sub-district 4A and sub-district 4B an annual meeting of the membership ~~between the first day of October and the first day of February following.~~

Sponsors: District Meeting Participation ad-hoc committee - Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Chairperson

[The sponsors state: “Removing the date requirement of October 1 through February 1 for annual district meetings will give districts the flexibility to schedule meetings when they are more convenient for members. Issues due to weather, no racing during the current time period make it difficult for members to attend.”]

22. A proposal to amend Article 3.01(c) Purpose of Meeting of the Association bylaws to remove the requirement to elect membership directors at a district meeting:

(c) **Purpose of Meeting.**—Purpose of the annual district meeting shall be ~~the election of directors and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting.~~

Sponsor: Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, District 2 Chairperson

[The sponsor states: “*The USTA national election day, Article 4.03 of the bylaws, went into effect on May 1, 2022, requiring all ballots to be returned to an accounting firm designated by the USTA, where votes are then tabulated, removing the vote ‘in-person’ at the annual district meeting. To be consistent with this change, ‘the election of directors’ should be removed from Article 3.01(c).*”]

23. A proposal to amend Article 4.02(c) Incumbent Director of the Association bylaws to change the date that an incumbent director must file a written declination as follows:

4.02 Election of Membership Directors

(c) **Incumbent Director.**—The incumbent membership director shall automatically become a candidate unless he or she files a written declination at the office of the association by the last day of ~~July~~ September.

Sponsor: Ellen Harvey, Aiken, SC

[The sponsor states: “*This proposal has no cost and provides 2.5 years of a three-year term, for a first term director, to discern if they wish to continue to serve. Many incumbents have decades of service; it seems unlikely an additional 61 days to make a decision regarding future service is needed.*

The current bylaw provides zero days for a director candidate to seek nominating signatures based on public, confirmed information regarding intentions of the incumbent, as they must submit their petitions by October 1, the day after the last day in September. The current rule effectively keeps that information secret until it is too late for prospective candidates to seek signatures. Members interested in seeking office have told me they are reluctant to risk ire or retaliation from the incumbent by taking the necessarily timely and public actions to run for the seat they hold. The current bylaw gives the incumbent the ability to shield their intentions and capitalize on that reluctance.

Providing prospective candidates with 61 days in August and September to gather signatures after there is public and confirmed information regarding the intention of the incumbent will provide ample time to gather signatures. Indeed, in areas where there is little or no pari-mutuel racing, or for candidates that participate primarily at fairs, August and September may be the only time they can do so.

Providing 61 days rather than the present zero days for members to gather ballot signatures based on public information will result in broader representation of potential director candidates willing to engage and represent constituents.

A recent Hoof Beats column by USTA Chief Operating Officer TC Lane asserted that, ‘Membership engagement at the local level is of utmost importance to USTA President Russell Williams, but also to the entire board of directors.’ This proposed rule change will advance membership engagement with no cost, no task force and no Zoom meetings.”]

24. Housekeeping item—A proposal to amend current Article 5.04 Vacancies - Membership Elected Directors to designate the timing of an election in accord with Article 4.02:

5.04 Vacancies—Membership Elected Directors.—Any vacancy on the district board of a membership director through death, written resignation filed with the United States Trotting Association office in Columbus, Ohio, removal, or other cause, may be filled from the membership of such district by the remaining membership directors for such district, with the individual so elected to serve until the next scheduled election as provided in Article

4.02 of the Association bylaws ~~district meeting~~, at which time an election shall be held for the purpose of electing a membership director for the balance of the term or a new term if the existing term has expired, as provided in article 4.02 herein.

Sponsors: Mike Tanner, TC Lane & Michele Kopiec, USTA Staff

[The sponsors state: “This is a housekeeping item to add the ‘National Election Day’ of directors that was approved at the annual board meeting in 2022 to the election of a membership director in the case of a vacancy.”]

25. A proposal to amend Article 5.03(b) Number of Directors in Each District and Their Terms of Office (for District 2) of the Association bylaws as follows:

5.03 Number of Directors in Each District and Their Terms of Office.—

(b) The district board of directors of district 2 shall consist of six (6) members, of which one (1) shall be elected by the pari-mutuel tracks of distinct 2. Of the other five (5) general membership directors, two (2) shall be elected from sub-district 2A, two (2) from sub-district 2B, and one (1) shall be elected at large.

Current bylaw:

(b) The district board of directors of district 2 shall consist of six (6) members, of which one (1) shall be elected by the combined pari-mutuel track members in Michigan and Indiana.

Sponsors: Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, District 2 Chairperson; Sam Hedington, District 2 Director

[The sponsors state: “Until 2017, this bylaw read that three membership directors were from 2A - Michigan, and two from 2B - Indiana. We believe the bylaw was inadvertently rewritten into its current form in 2017 when the overall track director allocations were redistributed, and District 2 lost a track director. In the future, this current language could potentially mean that all five membership directors are from Michigan, or all five membership directors are from Indiana. Not likely this would ever happen, but technically it could under the current By-Law language. This proposed bylaw language revision would be consistent with Article 5.03(d), District 4; and Article 5.03(f), District 6. Both these districts include multiple states similar to District 2.”]

26. A proposal to amend Article 11.01 Qualifications of Officers of the Association bylaws as follows:

11.01 Qualifications of Officers.— Beginning with the 2026 annual board meeting, the President, Chairperson of the Board, Vice Chairperson of the Board, and Treasurer must be a current director of the association. The office of secretary must be an employee of the association.

Current bylaw:

11.01 Qualification of Officers.—No officer of the association need be a director of the association.

Sponsor: Donald G. Marean, District 9 Chairperson

[The sponsor states: “This proposal is an update to our bylaws to bring us in line with current practices and those for the past several decades. The USTA has a pool of 60 directors and it would seem logical that our leadership come from within our own ranks. Officers from within and a hired executive vice president are a highly effective force between staff and the board. Currently, an officer of the association that is NOT a director has no vote. Does it make sense to have a non-elected officer in leadership when they have no vote? The elected board of directors shall exercise all powers of the association.”]

The following rule and bylaw change proposals (numbers 27-41) have been submitted by the Standardbred Racing Investigative Fund (SRIF). SRIF, along with USTA staff have established a number of proposals that shall serve as the framework for the organization to prohibit certain individuals from participating in the Standardbred industry. The existing language does not specifically provide the latitude to prohibit such participation.

27. Rule 1 – Mandate

1.03 Denial of Membership.—Racing Commission License Granted.—In the event that USTA denies membership to an individual person or entity, or defers a decision beyond 30 days pending further investigation to determine if he/she meets the requirements of the Bylaws relative to membership; and in the event a state racing authority determines that such person or entity fully meets its requirements and licenses such person or entity to participate at meetings under the jurisdiction of such racing authority, the USTA will issue electronic eligibility and/or driver/trainer licenses limited to such meetings and keep performance records on such person or entity and his/her/their horses while racing at such meetings in the same manner and for the same fee as for members. Licenses and/or electronic eligibility issued pursuant to this rule and section shall also be valid at county fairs and other meetings within the geographical boundaries of those states whose racing authorities have licensed said individual or entity. The issuance of a license and/or electronic eligibility pursuant to this rule shall not effect a person or entity's membership or standing with the USTA, including whether they are considered a person or entity not in good standing as defined in Rule 4 .

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28. Rule 3 – Violations

3.01 Violations.—Any USTA member violating any of its Rules or Regulations, shall be liable upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or suspension, or both, or expulsion from the USTA. The conviction of any business or corporate member of the USTA of a violation of any of its rules or regulations may also subject the officers of the said business entity corporation to a penalty not exceeding that which as provided herein above is provided.

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29. Rule 4 – Racing Terminology and Definitions

4.104 Member—A person or entity such as a corporation/stable/farm or racetrack that is required to belong to the USTA.

New subsection (will require re-numbering of current rules 4.130-4.203 if approved):

4.130 Person Not in Good Standing – A person or entity that failed to comply with one or more of the requirements for membership specified the USTA's Rules and Bylaws and as a result is serving an indefinite suspension or revocation of their USTA membership shall be considered a person or entity not in good standing with the USTA.

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30. Rule 20 – Standards of Conduct - Failure to Report Fraudulent Proposal

20.05 Failure to Report Fraudulent Proposal.—If any person shall be approached with any offer or promise of a bribe or a wager or with a request or suggestion for a bribe or for any improper, corrupt or fraudulent act in relation to racing or that any race shall be conducted otherwise than fairly and honestly, or approached with any offer or proposal that if accepted would constitute a violation of the Rules of the USTA, it shall be the duty of such person to report the details thereof immediately to the USTA and if in relation to racing, to the presiding judge.

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31. Rule 20 – Standards of Conduct - Conspiracy to Commit Violation of Rules

20.07 Conspiracy to Commit Violation of Rules.—If two or more persons shall combine and confederate together

in any manner regardless of where the said persons may be located for the purpose of violating any of the Rules of the USTA and shall commit some act in furtherance of the said purpose and plan, those actions it shall constitute a conspiracy and a violation, and said person or persons who conspire shall be deemed liable for violation(s) of the Rules of the USTA he/she violated or sought to violate.ion(s) of the Rules of the USTA they conspired to commit.

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32. Rule 20 – Standards of Conduct - Aiding or Abetting a Violation of the Rules

New sub-section (will require re-numbering of current rules 20.08-20.17 if approved):

20.08 Aiding or Abetting a Violation of Rules. – If a person aids, abets, assists, facilitates, or encourages another to commit a violation of the Rules of the USTA, those actions shall constitute aiding and abetting and a violation, and said person shall be liable for the violation(s) of the Rules of the USTA the person(s) they aided or abetted violated or sought to violate.

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33. Rule 20 – Standards of Conduct - Prohibition Against Individuals Not in Good Standing

New sub-section (number to be determined):

20. Prohibition Against Individuals Not in Good Standing. Persons or entities not in good standing with the USTA, as defined by § 4. , are prohibited from owning an interest in a farm, corporation, stable, horse, or share in a stallion syndicate registered with the USTA, regardless of the percentage of ownership interest. The USTA shall be notified immediately of any attempt by a person not in good standing to purchase any interest in a registered farm, corporation, stable, horse, or share in a stallion syndicate registered with the USTA, regardless of the percentage of ownership interest, and failure by a USTA member to provide such notification shall constitute a violation.

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34. Rule 20 – Standards of Conduct - Trainer of Horse for Disbarred Person

20.14 Trainer of Horse for Disbarred Person.—A trainer who trains and races a horse knowing said horse to be owned wholly or in part by a person or entity not in good standing with the USTA or by a person or entity barred or otherwise disqualified from participating in racing shall be suspended from USTA membership for a minimum of one year shall have committed a violation.

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35. Rule 20 – Standards of Conduct - False Ownership

20.15 False Ownership.—Any person who knowingly makes a false representation or knowingly causes a false representation to be made to the USTA related to that the registration of a Standardbred horse shall have committed a violation ; is not owned wholly or in part by a person or persons, a person barred or otherwise disqualified from participating in racing when, in fact, the horse is so owned, shall be suspended from membership in this association for a minimum of one year.

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36. Rule 20 – Standards of Conduct - False Trainer of Record

New sub-section (number to be determined):

20. False Trainer of Record.—Any person who knowingly makes a false representation or knowingly causes a false representation to be made to the USTA or a state racing authority related to designating the trainer of record of a Standardbred horse shall have committed a violation, including but not limited to making or causing such false representation for the purpose of concealing that someone other than the trainer of record is, in fact, responsible for or directing the care and conditioning of a horse.

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37. Rule 22 – Fines, Suspension, and Expulsion - Effect of Penalty on Horse

22.05 Effect of Penalty on Horse.—No horse shall have the right to compete while owned or controlled wholly or in part by a person or entity not in good standing with the USTA or by a suspended, expelled, disqualified or excluded person or entity. An entry made by or for a person or entity of a horse suspended, expelled or disqualified, shall be held liable for the entrance/starting fee thus contracted without the right to compete unless the penalty is removed. A suspended, disqualified or excluded person who shall drive or a suspended or disqualified horse which shall perform in a race shall be fined for each offense.

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38. Rule 22 – Fines, Suspension, and Expulsion - Participation by a Person not in Good Standing with the USTA or a Suspended, Disqualified, Excluded or Expelled Person, Entity or Horse

22.06 Participation by a Person or Entity not in Good Standing with the USTA or a Suspended, Disqualified, Excluded or Expelled Person, Entity or Horse.—Any member that willfully allowing a person or entity not in good standing with the USTA or a suspended, disqualified or excluded person, entity or horse to participate in a race, or that willfully allows a person or entity not in good standing to or to own an interest in a registered farm, corporation, stable or stallion syndicate in violation of these Rules or a suspended or disqualified horse to start in a race shall be subject to a fine or suspension.

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39. Rule 26 – Registration of Horses - Fraudulent Transfer

26.12 Fraudulent Transfer.—The fraudulent transfer of a horse by any person or entity not in good standing with the USTA or any person or entity under suspension, in order to circumvent said person or entity's lack of good standing with the USTA or suspension shall constitute a violation and shall be punishable by a fine, further suspension or a combination thereof.

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40. Rule 26 – Registration of Horses - Failure to Submit Information

26.16 Failure to Submit Information.—A person or entity shall, upon request, submit records and information to the USTA or its authorized agent relative to the breeding, veterinary care, registration, ownership and/or transfer of a horse or stallion syndicate share, as well as records and information relative to the administration of approved or unapproved medication to a Standardbred horse or possession or purchase of approved or unapproved medication. The USTA or its authorized agent may require that the production of said records and information be accompanied by an unsworn declaration made under penalty of perjury that the contents of the production are true and correct. Failure by a member to submit requested information to the USTA or its authorized agent or additional aids to identification relative to the breeding, veterinary care, registration, ownership and/or transfer of a horse, or relative to the administration of approved or unapproved medication to Standardbred horse or possession or purchase of approved or unapproved medication, to the USTA may constitute a violation and subject the member to fine or suspension by the USTA.

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41. Article 6.01 of the Association bylaws - Location of Hearing

6.01 Location of hearing.—The district boards shall hold all hearings within the geographic boundaries of the district, except that hearings involving issues of fact occurring in more than one district may be heard by the executive committee if so determined by the president. The location of said hearings before the executive committee shall be determined by the president.