

DIRECTIONS FOR THE RACING SEASON 2016

A. HORSE POPULATION

- A.1 Operating licenses will take effect on the 1st March 2016 and will be valid for a maximum period of twelve months. Any Trainer will be expected to have under his custody, not less than 10 and not more than 45 horses at any time throughout the racing season. At least 5 new horses must be imported by each Trainer at the commencement of the racing season.
- A.2 Should a trainer's horse population fall below the minimum required; such Trainer will be required within one month to increase his horse population to the required minimum. Failure to do so may be a cause for his license to be revoked.
- A.3 Stables will be allocated in Port Louis and Floréal as per current MTC schedule.

B. UNSOUND HORSES

- B.1 Any horse, which does not race for a period of three consecutive months, shall be deemed to no longer form part of a trainer's horse population. Consequently, it will not be subsidised by the MTC.

C. ENTRIES

- C.1 All horses entered are entered with a view to racing. Entries for all race meetings are to be made on Tuesdays. Completed entry forms with the name of the horse/s, the names of the Owner/s, and the code for colours to be used must be submitted by latest 8.30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Entry box situated near the Security Department Office. Failure to do so without good justification may result in non acceptance of his entries.
- C.2 If at the time of entries there are six or less than six (five in Rating 50+) horses entered for a race with less than three trainers represented, the race may be cancelled or re-opened.
- C.3 Fully completed and signed trainer returns for notification of gear changes must be lodged prior to noon on the Wednesday preceding a race meeting.
- C.4 No horse shall be allowed to race unless its name has been on the official list of a Trainer's horse population at least eight (8) days prior to the race meeting.
- C.5 Prior to its first race, every newly-imported horse shall have:
 - (i) its identity confirmed by its trainer and verified by MTC; and

(ii) performed in at least one barrier test or one barrier trial to the satisfaction of the Racing Stewards.

- C.6 The barrier draw will be conducted after declarations, except when notified.
- C.7 Trainers will have to submit a provisional list of entries at least 8 days prior to a race meeting, when so required, in order to assist in the preparation of the race card.

D. DECLARATIONS

D.1 Declarations will take place every Thursday for Saturday and week-end race meetings and Fridays for Sunday race meetings. The Declaration forms are to be deposited by latest 8 a.m. on Declaration day in the Declaration form box situated near the Security Department Office. Failure to do so without good justification may result in refusal of his declarations. No Trainer or his representative will be allowed in the Stipes Room when the Declarations are being processed. With respect to doubly entered horses, the trainer shall determine his order of priority for the races where he wishes his horse to start. If a rider is declared on more than one horse in the same race, his earlier engagement will prevail unless the parties involved agree otherwise.

D.2 Balloting conditions:

- (a) In any race, be it weight for age or handicap, the field shall be determined in accordance with the following criteria:
- (i) merit rating of nominated horses, in descending order; and
 - (ii) one runner per Trainer principle.
- (b) Accordingly, whenever the number of Trainers, who have nominated at least one horse, is equal to or less than the number of places available in the field, each Trainer shall be entitled to have at least one runner.
- (c) Remaining places in the field, if any, shall be filled in in accordance with the criteria mentioned in (a) above, and no Trainer shall be entitled to a third runner (where applicable) before all the trainers concerned have had a second runner, including a place as an emergency acceptor.
- (d) Whenever a Trainer nominates two or more horses, in any race, MTC Racing Management shall list the horses in order of priority, from the highest rated to the lowest rated horse.
- (e) Thus, for the purpose of determining priority in respect of available places, the highest rated nominated horse of every Trainer shall be deemed to be his first choice and lowest-rated horse/s shall be deemed, in descending order of merit rating, to be his second choice, third choice and so on.
- (f) Notwithstanding (e) above, nothing shall prevent a Trainer from selecting his lowest-rated horse to fill in an available place in the field, in which case, the trainer may forfeit his right to have a second or third runner or an emergency acceptor.
- (g) In any non-group handicap race, excluding handicap races reserved for horses with a rating of 60+ or more, the following horses shall have priority as follows:
1. Last start winner
 2. Trump Cards
 3. Horses balloted out when last nominated if they were their Trainer's sole entry in the race.

The above condition shall apply only to horses nominated inside their rating band and for the current season.

- (h) Whenever two or more horses have the same merit rating and only one place is available in the field, including a place as emergency acceptor, priority shall be given to the horse which has the better barrier position.

- D.3 Trainers will be allocated two trump cards per season, the first one valid from Meeting 1 to Meeting 18 and the second from Meeting 19 to the end of the season, excluding the International Week-End. Any Trump Card must be attached to a declaration form.
- D.4 All horses officially nominated, must race if places are available unless a veterinary certificate of scratching is submitted. A subsequent veterinary clearance will be required for that horse to be eligible to race again.
- All horses officially nominated must be physically present in Port Louis by 7 a.m. on Thursday for Saturdays meetings and by 7 a.m. on Fridays for Sundays and week-end meetings.
- D.5 Any horse, which is being entered and subsequently withdrawn upon the recommendation of a Veterinary Surgeon, will not be eligible to run at the immediately following race meeting without the special authorisation of the Racing Stewards.
- D.6 Notwithstanding the above, a trainer who has nominated two or more horses in a race, shall be required to race at least two horses if the field consists of less than (8) runners. However, if the field consists of at least eight (8) runners, the trainer shall not be required to race a second horse.
- D.7 If at the time of declaration there are six or less than six (five in Rating 50+) horses declared for a race with less than three trainers represented, the race may be cancelled or re-opened.
- D.8 All runners shall be presented to be weighed on the day before the race day at a time fixed by the Security Manager. Weights of all runners shall be made public at 9.00 a.m. on same day.

E. OWNERS

- E.1 Owners/Trainers must have completed their registration and satisfied all the requirements contained therein with The Mauritius Turf Club.
- E.2 Only registered owners shall be entitled to have their names in the Official Racing Card and be eligible to have access to the paddock and/or the racetrack.
- E.3 An honorary owner must be declared in advance and have obtained official approval from Management upon payment of the prescribed fee.

F. RACING EQUIPMENT

- F.1 Earplugs, that have been declared and printed on the Race Card, must not be removed during the race.
- F.2 Depending upon prevailing climatic conditions on the day, the Racing Stewards may authorise or request a trainer to remove or apply pacifiers to his horse.
- F.3 Any horse which is to race with blinkers for the first time must undergo a test at the starting stalls beforehand.

G. JOCKEYS

- G.1 No jockey, who is a non-citizen of Mauritius, shall be authorized to ride at track work and/or in races unless he is in possession of an official work and residence permit (where applicable) to take up employment with a designated Trainer. Furthermore, he will not be allowed to ride for any other trainer in any race except a group race where he is second jockey or if called upon for an emergency replacement, with the approval of his employer and subject to the authorisation of the Racing Stewards. Validation forms signed by both Trainers must be submitted to the Racing Stewards when seeking authorisation.
- G.2 Every rider will be required to ride at track work for a minimum of 4 days a week.
- G.3 A trainer may also request authorisation for a local jockey, Club jockey, claiming apprentice or track rider, to ride his horse during training in Port-Louis or Floréal.
- G.4 Riders licensed by the Club must seek authorisation from the Racing Stewards if they wish to leave Mauritius to take up temporary employment abroad.
- G.5 Jockeys are not allowed to use cellular phones in the Weighing Room, Jockeys' Room or Parade Ring at all times. These must be handed over to the Clerk of the Scales for custody before proceeding to the Jockeys' Room on race days.
- G.6 Careless riding suspensions may be deferred until after the next meeting and up to two race meetings if the second race meeting programs a Group 1 race.

H. TRANSFER OF HORSES

- H.1 (a) The transfer of a horse following an ownership change or upon termination of an owner/trainer agreement, may be authorised by the Racing Stewards upon payment of the prescribed fee.
- (b) In relation to the termination of owner/trainer's agreement:
- (i) the Administrators, after being notified in writing, will specify the date on which such transfer will be effective;
 - (ii) a maximum of two trainer's transfers is permitted during any one racing season. For the purposes of the Owner Billing and Registration Department, all transfers will be deemed to become effective on the first day of the following month.
- H.2 Any horse in the waiting to be transferred will be kept on light training and fed accordingly.
- H.3 Any horse which has been entered in a race prior to the transfer request may still participate in that race under the name and colors of the initial owner.

I. RACE DAYS

- I.1 Access to the centre of the parade ring, from the time that the horses are saddled to that time that they leave the parade ring, is restricted to officials of the MTC (including former Administrative Stewards), trainers, assistant trainers, jockeys and the owners of the horses participating in the race itself.

- I.2 Access to the weighing room is restricted to trainers, jockeys and officials of the MTC. However, an assistant trainer may have access when he is replacing his trainer or if the stable has two horses or more entered in the race.
- I.3 If a trainer wishes to leave the premises after he has raced his last runner but before the last race, he must notify the Clerk of the Course where he may be contacted in case of emergency.
- I.4 All runners must be present in the parade ring once horses from the previous race have left. Runners participating in race 1 must be present at least 30 minutes before the official start of the race. Permission may be granted by the Paddock Supervisor for unruly horses to come to the presentation ring later or to proceed immediately to the race track.
- I.5 Horses must be saddled in the paddock area unless permission is obtained from the Paddock Supervisor. All non place getters must be unsaddled in their pre-race paddock box.

J. RACE TACTICS

- J.1 A trainer who wishes to vary a horse's well-established racing pattern in relation to any one of his runner(s) must inform the Racing Stewards prior to the horse being saddled of the racing tactics that he intends to use and confirm to them that these have been clearly explained to the riding jockey(s).
- J.2 When a trainer has entered two horses or more in a race, jockey's riding instructions must be lodged in writing on forms provided and signed by all parties before being handed to the Clerk of the Course before saddling of his horses.

K. GROOMS

- K.1 MTC authorisation is required prior to the transfer of a groom from one stable to another before the start of the season (1st March 2016). No transfer requests after that date will be entertained save in case of force majeure.
- K.2 Grooms must be informed, at least two (2) days prior to the transfer of horses under their custody leaving Floréal for morning track work in Port Louis. MTC Management in Floréal must be advised, by the preceding Friday afternoon, of any movement of horses to be effected on Sunday morning.
- K.3 A horse must stay with the same groom as from Declaration day. Should it be necessary to carry out a change of groom, the stable door locks must immediately be replaced when proceeding with the handing over to the relieving groom. The register kept by the Chief Security Officer must be signed in the latter's presence by the two grooms concerned. The appropriate form witnessing a groom change of grooms at the Floréal Training Centre must be signed in the same way, in the presence of the Officer in Charge at Floréal and returned to the Chief Security Officer in Port Louis by the end of each week at latest.
- K.4 Each Trainer must issue to his grooms a proper stable uniform on race-days unless sponsored T-shirts are being provided to be worn by them.
- K.5 Grooms are to ensure that their horses are duly examined after the race by the Club's Veterinary Surgeon and that their urine specimens are collected. They should also report any abnormality.
- K.6 Grooms must immediately report to the Chief Security Officer any abnormality, dysfunction or problem of whatever nature to his box(es) that may affect the security of the horse(s) under his custody.

- K.7 Should a groom be unavailable whilst his horse is being treated, a substitute groom may be authorised by the Security Officer to be present. However, this will not in any way relieve the groom under whose custody the horse is of any responsibility and accountability.

VETERINARY EXAMINATION

- L.1 After each race the Club's Veterinary Surgeon will trot a horse to ensure that there is no lameness and, should the need arise, he will ensure that the horse is scoped. Blood and urine samples may also be taken at the request of the Racing Stewards.
- L.2 If so requested by the Racing Stewards, the Club's Veterinary Surgeon may be requested to carry out a heart auscultation, particularly in the case of a horse having performed poorly.

Stephane de Chalain
Chief Stipendiary Steward

14 March 2016