



Harness Racing Breeders Fund Rules and Regulations

With the enactment of Act 71 (“Gaming Act”), the General Assembly provided new funding opportunities for the standardbred racing industry by directing the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission (“Commission”) to adopt and administer a standardbred breeders program. Act 71 also provided additional funding to continue to nurture the existing sire stakes program for the betterment of the standardbred racing industry.

Through the Commission, the Breeders’ Advisory Committee was established and assigned the task of creating guidelines by which standardbred horse owners/breeders could participate in this voluntary program and to receive specific stallion, breeder and/or sired and bred awards (money) for their horse’s participation.

Below are the established procedures which the Commission has concluded must be followed by any individual who wants his/her horse to be eligible for the standardbred breeders program and to receive the breeders’ program awards. Since the breeders’ program is a voluntary program, failure to comply with the set procedures and informational requirements could result in the horse not being eligible for the program benefits.

The established procedures are subject to change on an annual basis. Suggested modifications or revisions to the breeders and sire stakes programs can be requested by contacting the Commission and the Breeders’ Advisory Committee in writing. The Commission and the Breeders’ Advisory Committee will discuss and determine the necessity to adopt any changes necessary to maintain a quality program.

- A. The Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission will establish a Pennsylvania Standardbred Breeders Advisory Committee (SBAC) which shall consist of a Commissioner from the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission, the Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission, two representatives from the breeders, one racetrack representative, and one racing horsemen’s representative. The Breeder’s Fund director shall also be present in these meetings to provide clarification and act as secretary for the purpose of taking minutes.
- B. The scope and purpose of this Committee is to provide the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission with information and suggested directive action on matter surrounding and involving the Pennsylvania Standardbred Breeder’s Fund and Sire Stake Program.
- C. The following is a description of the forms, dates and regulations that are applicable to this program:



- D. A broodmare registration form must be signed by the first listed mare owner using the United States Trotting Association website and database. This form must be returned every breeding year by February 15 of the foaling year. In the event that February 15th is a weekend or holiday the next Commission business day will be the assigned deadline. Completing this condition and filing this form will secure the broodmare's ability to earn award for any foals that race at Pennsylvania harness racetracks in the future.
- E. A stallion registration form must be completed and submitted to the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission by February 1st. . In the event that February 1st is a weekend or holiday the next Commission business day will be the assigned deadline.
(Please see Sire Stake Rules for further information).
- F. The Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission will provide notice of these dates to prospective individuals using trade magazines and racing websites. However, the Commission does not assume any responsibility nor is accountable for the failure of those directly involved with this program to ensure their compliance.
- G. A W-9 or a foreign equivalent must be completed and on file with the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission prior to any payments being made. This form is to be signed by the first listed mare owner using the United States Trotting Association website and database.
- H. The Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission will recommend the usage of the PEPP system and form. This will permit an electronic transfer of Breeder's award funds in a timelier manner.
- I. In the event that the designated owner request that funds be provided to another party involved with the horse(s) in question a Transfer of Payee (T/P) form may be completed. This form can be used in regards to one horse or all horses involved in the signee's name.
- J. In the event following the receiving the any/all appropriate forms a Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission representative will review for accuracy. If possible and minor error occurs the commission representative will make the correction. If the commission representative is unable to make the correction all paperwork will be returned to the sender with explanation.
- K. A random check or visit may result to ensure that any broodmare nominated has residency within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as mandated. The commission may request invoices, copies of cancelled checks and any other documents necessary to ensure compliance.
- L. Should an embryo be transferred from a Standardbred mare to another mare and the recipient mare stands the required 180 days then it should be considered a resident and receive awards.



M. All stallion registrations must be on file with the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission by February 1st of each racing calendar year.

STALLION: Residency is defined as being present “standing” in Pennsylvania from February 15th through July 4th of the breeding year, permission to change or modify these dates must be submitted in writing prior to the start of the standing period. This includes permission to race - he may not be raced without first receiving written permission from the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission.

MARE: To be considered eligible a mare must be in foal to a PA registered stallion for that breeding season and “stand” in Pennsylvania for a period of 180 contiguous days including foaling. A Breeders Fund Registration Form must be completed each breeding season the mare is in foal and submitted to the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission for each mare bred to be registered as a RESIDENT MARE.

The age of a horse shall be calculated from the first day of January of the year of foaling.