



The Horsemen's f Newsletter

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Hammond Receives Godolphin Award

The MTHA congratulates staff member Jessica Hammond for being recognized with the Dr. J. David Richardson Community Award for 2022 as part of the Godolphin Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards.

The award recognizes those who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the Thoroughbred industry, and in particular, to the greater good of the sport. It includes those who support the breeding and racing staff or have made an outstanding contribution to the wider Thoroughbred community.

Ideal candidates should work either for or with a charitable organization, or as part of the charitable arm of the Thoroughbred business for which they work. Nominees for the award do not need to be directly employed in the Thoroughbred industry. This year's awards ceremony will be prehehldnted Oct. 14 at Keeneland.

Hammond, who joined the MTHA as counselor and benevolence administrator, soon after expanding her role as administrator of the new Beyond The Wire aftercare program when it was formed in conjunction with the Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Horse Breeders Association in May 2017. She and her

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HISA Revises Guidance On Racetrack Safety Program Shoe Rule

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) July 29 released updated guidance on Rule 2276, which pertains to horseshoes such as full outer rim shoes and toe grabs. Shoe rules are part of the HISA Racetrack Safety Program that took effect July 1, 2022.

HISA said Rule 2276 shall not be enforced for horses racing on dirt surfaces that are shod on the hind limbs with traction devices in the form of either a full outer rim shoe (up to 4 millimeters in height) or a toe grab (up to 4 millimeters in height). All other provisions of Rule 2276 shall

remain in full force and effect. Enforcement of Rule 2276 will begin as previously announced Monday, Aug. 1, 2022.

HISA, in an advisory notice, said its Racetrack Safety Committee in July was made aware through communications from elected officials on Capitol Hill and from horsepersons of widespread concerns that the traction provided by full outer rim shoes and toe grabs for the hind limbs is essential for the safety of horses in certain circumstances. The circumstances include breaking from the gate and track conditions that are impacted by ambient temperature or precipitation, including maintenance procedures such as watering the track.

The concerns are that reduced traction will result in horses either slipping, falling, or other-

wise being unable to firmly grip the track surface, with resulting injury to horses and their riders. The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association July 29 issued the following statement on its involvement in the process.



"On July 19, the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Board of Directors, joined by representatives of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association and Thoroughbred Owners of California, met in Saratoga, N.Y., with HISA leadership to discuss the im-

plementation of HISA, issues that have arisen, and short-term and long-term plans. Among the issues discussed was the shoe rule, which has generated significant concern among horsemen for its potential to negatively affect the safety and welfare of our horses.

"The group requested the opportunity to meet with the HISA Safety Committee to express concerns and recommend a resolution prior to the rule's implementation. On July 27, a group comprised of John Kimmel VMD, Scott Palmer VMD, Ian McKinlay, Graham Motion, Linda Gaudet, Joe Appelbaum and Alan Foreman met with the HISA Safety Committee. The dialogue was invaluable, as it gave the Safety Commit-

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Special Measurement Gauges Heat

As part of its equine health and safety protocols, the Maryland Jockey Club is using a special measurement to gauge when summer heat becomes dangerous.

MJC Acting President Mike Rogers explained the company uses a protocol called the WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) measurement, which takes into account temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover to determine potential heat stress. It is different than the heat index, which takes into consideration temperature and humidity including for shady areas.

The MJC July 23 changed first post time to 1:50 p.m. from 12:40 p.m. based on the measurement.

"It's used by all major sports, the military and the Federation Equestre Internationale as a better way of determining whether heat exposure will be a risk to performance," Rogers said. "We've been using the measurement. It's not just about temperature—95 degrees can feel different in direct sunlight rather than shade."

Rogers said if the WBGT measurement is at 91.4, there is no choice but to cancel racing. The measurement during the delayed July 23 program was approaching 90.



Online Injury Reporting Form Updated

In response to suggestions made during a recent meeting on racing surfaces, stakeholders have retooled an online Injury Reporting Form designed to provide the Maryland Racing Commission and Maryland Jockey Club with real-time data with the goal of rapidly responding to track issues when they crop up. The Injury Report has been updated based on feedback from users.

Attending veterinarians and trainers are being asked to submit the online form for horses that are injured during training and racing at Laurel, Pimlico Race Course and the Maryland State Fair at Timonium. Similar to information compiled in 2020 on bleeding after race-day Lasix was banned for 2-year-olds racing in Maryland, the data will be strictly confidential and monitored by the MRC.

The Injury Reporting Form is available at <http://mdhorsemen.com/report>

Trainers are urged to work with their veterinarians to ensure injuries—minor or serious—are promptly reported.

Information required on the form includes the trainer's name; horse's name; horse's age; horse's sex; the track where the injury occurred; the date and time of the injury; the location of the injury (barn, track and where on the track, or other); the veterinarian's name; the type of injury (soft tissue, fracture or other); whether the injury is new or recurring; which diagnostics were performed, if any; and the diagnosis and related treatment plan.

"We want people to know this not an effort to place horses on the vet's list," said Dr. Libby Daniel, MRC Equine Medical and Welfare Director. "This is about identifying problem areas on the track or problems with the surface itself. That is the main goal of this form."

MJC Acting President Mike Rogers said receiving injury information promptly is extremely important when it comes to identifying potential issues with racing surfaces. "The data helps us identify problems and modify maintenance practices if necessary," he said. "We're clearly trying to look for trends."

➔ Shoes, Continued

tee the opportunity to explain its rationale for the rule and the THA group the opportunity to respond. We are pleased that this morning, HISA has announced that it is implementing the change we recommended that allows horses racing on dirt to have certain hindlimb traction devices. We are particularly appreciative of the contributions of John Kimmel and Scott Palmer in providing critical support for the need to change the rule.

"HISA is the law and it is in effect. Notwithstanding the distraction of litigation, we believe that it is our responsibility on behalf of our constituencies to engage with HISA as necessary to ensure that our horses are protected, our horsemen are treated fairly and responsibly, and that the integrity of racing is preserved. The fact that horsemen are not represented on any HISA Committee is a missed opportunity that we believe needs to be corrected. In the meantime, we will continue to vigorously advocate for the best interests of the safety and welfare of the horse and the best interests of our horsemen. We continue to collaborate with HISA and this decision underscores their willingness to engage with us and make changes as necessary. In particular, we thank the HISA Safety Committee for its willingness to consider and act on thoughtful input from those who can provide it."

In response to the meeting, the HISA Safety Committee met for several hours to discuss the concerns expressed in light of the upcoming implementation of the horseshoe rule.

"After full consideration of the matter, the committee strongly recommended the use of full outer rim shoes for hindlimb traction because these shoes provide traction while enabling the hoof to land flatly on the track surface, whereas toe grabs accentuate stressors on bone and soft tissues, such as tendons and ligaments, which contributes to injury," HISA said in its advisory announcing the updated guidance. "Moreover, the only study investigating the association of hindlimb toe grabs with injury revealed that injuries to the suspensory apparatus were more likely to occur to horses shod with hindlimb toe grabs."

"In contrast, there is no evidence indicating that toe grabs protect horses or riders. However, given the concerns expressed, the committee recommended to HISA that Rule 2276 shall not be enforced for horses racing on dirt surfaces that are shod on the hind limbs with traction devices in the form of either a full outer rim shoe (up to 4 millimeters in height) or a toe grab (up to 4 millimeters in height). All other provisions of Rule 2276 shall remain in full force and effect. Enforcement of Rule 2276 will begin as previously announced on Monday, Aug. 1, 2022."

Continuing Ed Programs Expanded Under HISA

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act's Racetrack Safety Program, which took effect July 1, 2022, includes expanded requirements for continuing education. Previous CE programs have dealt primarily with trainers.

The following is the HISA Continuing Rule, which is Section 2182 of the Racetrack Safety Program.

(a) Subject to the applicable State Racing Commission electing to enter into an agreement with the Authority, the State Racing Commission shall identify existing, or provide locally, training opportunities for all Racetrack employees having roles in Racetrack safety or direct contact with Covered Horses.

(b) Required annual continuing education shall include:

(1) Regulatory Veterinarians must complete, on an annual basis, at least 8 hours continuing education specific to racetrack regulatory medicine;

(2) Attending Veterinarians must complete, on an annual basis, at least 8 hours continuing education specifically applicable to racetrack practice;

(3) Medical Directors must complete, on an annual basis, at least 8 hours continuing education;

(4) Stewards shall be either accredited or actively participating in gaining accreditation through the ROAP and Certification Programs (maintenance of the ROAP Accreditation requires at least 16 hours of continuing education every 2 calendar years);

(5) Trainers must complete, on an annual basis, at least 4 hours annual continuing education;

(6) Assistant Trainers must complete, on an annual basis, at least 4 hours annual continuing education;

(7) Owners must complete, on an annual basis, at least 2 hours annually;

(8) Racetrack surface managers must complete at least 8 hours of continuing education every 2 years;

(9) Grooms must complete, on an annual basis, at least 2 hours annual continuing education offered in English and Spanish;

(10) Outriders must complete, on an annual basis, at least 2 hours safety and outrider protocol training delivered locally prior to the beginning of a Race Meet;

(11) Jockeys and exercise riders must complete at least 2 hours safety and rider protocols delivered locally in English and Spanish prior to the beginning of a Race Meet;

(12) Starters and Assistant Starters must complete, on an annual basis, at least 2 hours safety training either delivered locally prior to the beginning of a Race Meet or through the ROAP certification; and

(13) Equipment operators must complete, on an annual basis, at least 2 hours safety training either delivered locally prior to the beginning of a Race Meet or through a continuing education program.

If you need more info on HISA CE requirements and how to access programs contact Tom LaMarra at tom@mdhorsemen.com or 859-492-8365.

➔ Hammond, Continued —

husband, Scott, live on a farm in Harford County.

Hammond was nominated for the Community Award by Georganne Hale, MJC Vice President of Racing Development and a member of the Beyond The Wire Board of Directors.

"I decided to nominate Jessica for the Thoroughbred Industry Community Award because she is a person who so deserves it," Hale said. "Jessica helps every person on the backside or frontside of the racetracks in Maryland. She is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Jessica helps and solves problems that employees bring to her when they may affect their physical or mental well-being. Her door is always open."

"Jessica not only helps the humans. Her other job is protecting the horses when their careers as racehorses are over. Jessica makes sure every horse lands in a safe and healthy environment when they retire. We need many more Jessica Hammonds in the racing industry."

Hammond is the third MTHA employee to be honored as part of Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards. Office manager Diana Pinones was runner-up for the Community Award in 2021 while the now-retired Bobby Lillis won the same award in 2019.

"Receiving this award is a real honor," Hammond said. "I first became aware of the Godolphin Awards when we were living in Newmarket, England, and they've been on my radar ever since. It's icing on the cake to get an award for jobs that are already so rewarding. I'm a lucky lady."

In roughly five years, more than 500 horses have gone through Beyond the Wire program, which partners with a group of Thoroughbred Aftercare Association-accredited facilities in Maryland and beyond. Hammond has worked to expand the network of partner farms to ensure that more horses are able to find homes and move on to second careers.

Horse Owner Campanella Passes

Vince Campanella, who had success as a Thoroughbred racehorse owner in Maryland and neighboring states for decades, died July 27 after a lengthy illness. He was 77.

A resident of Fulton, Md., Campanella was raised in Washington, D.C., and lived most of his life in Maryland. Upon graduation from high school, he worked at Read Plastics until his retirement at age 40.

Campanella's horses won multiple stakes over an almost 20-year period. His runners won a combined 265 races and earned almost \$7 million. Campanella had horses with multiple trainers including Jeff Runco and more recently Damon Dilodovico, who trains Campanella's Going to the Lead, a winner of more than \$280,000 who is based at Laurel Park.

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The Docs Are In

The Horsemen's Health System, a partnership formed by the MTHA, MJC and MedStar Health, is at your service on live racing days at Maryland's Thoroughbred racetracks.

The MedStar doctors, who also work with the local riding colony, are available from noon until the last racing day at Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course and the Maryland State Fair at Timonium. It is recommended that anyone needing assistance other than emergency situations schedule an appointment in advance by contacting Diana Pinones at 410-902-6844.



MedStar Health

