

Covid-19 Protocols and Procedures

A Brief Overview

- Face masks are REQUIRED at all times in Barn Area and Paddock.
- Horsemen are responsible for providing masks and gloves for themselves and their employees. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth and surgical masks.
- Temperature scans will be conducted at the stable gate before entering the backstretch.
- All horseman, grooms, trainers, drivers must be on the preapproved list to enter barn area or paddock or access will not be granted. No exceptions.
- Numbered races will be changed to accomplish social distancing. Please be aware of the altered race numbers upon entrance to the paddock.
- Access to the drivers' room will be extremely limited. Only two (2) allowed at a time.
- No owners, visitors, or guests will be allowed access to any areas including, but not limited to, barn area, the racing paddock, track apron, grandstand or clubhouse until further notice.
- Horses, trainers, drivers and grooms must vacate the paddock immediately after completing racing for the night.
- It is understood that any horseman, groom, trainer, driver who refuses to follow these policies and procedures, and/or acts in a manner that in the sole opinion of Batavia Downs and its designated employees, increases the risk of covid-19 exposure or spread will be immediately escorted off the premises.

General Rules of Operation:

1. Personnel & Attendance:

The public will not be allowed in the grandstands or other general gathering areas. No pari-mutuel wagering, with live tellers, shall be conducted on the premises until given permission from the New York State Gaming Commission.

Any individual exhibiting signs of illness – coughing, sneezing, and looking feverish or unwell – will be denied admittance. Do not attempt to enter if you are sick. Temperatures will be checked at the paddock entrance (see below).

No food vendors or distribution of food will be permitted in the paddock or in the grandstand/apron. Trainers, grooms, and drivers are required to bring their own beverages and food and keep them in their respective vehicles or tack rooms.

Guests, visitors, owners, children, or any individual not directly associated with conducting live racing will not be admitted in the stable area or paddock on any day.

Only essential paddock track personnel (estimated at 12), trainers, drivers and grooms permitted in the Secure Paddock Area (SPA) where the horses are held pre-race.

Essential Paddock Personnel Includes: Paddock Judge/ Horse Identifier / Numbers Person/ Starting Car Driver and NYS starter/ Security (both inside and outside of the paddock); Farrier, Veterinarian.

Numbers will be placed in respective horses' stalls after being sanitized prior to the arrival of any horses to avoid contact with horseman.

No one other than the paddock judge should be in the paddock office at any given time. A breathalyzer window will be cut out in paddock judge office to avoid direct contact in the paddock office.

2. Preregistration:

Each and every person who expects to enter the stable area and/or paddock for the 2020 race meet must be preregistered and approved for entry by the race office. Only authorized preregistered horseman will be allowed in. Registration will not occur at the stable gate.

3. After the Draw:

After the “draw” for a race day, the race office will make a list of horse people who are seeking access to the paddock. The race office will provide security with a race day list of approved people. **Individuals not on this list as well as those who do not have a valid New York State Racing Commission License will not be granted access to the backstretch FOR ANY REASON.** No exceptions will be made. Trainers must make certain that all employees and workers have their license in order.

4. Procedures:

Track Security will remain outside of the SPA while logging the horses and handlers in while taking temperatures of all personnel via “no-touch” laser thermometers.

Verification of licensee will occur upon arrival to the SPA with roaming security personnel enforcing the protocol.

Trainers/Grooms/Drivers shall be those holding a New York license.

Those with any underlying health issues or symptoms of illness should not come to the SPA under any circumstances. This includes any person with reason to be concerned for their health as per the latest New York and US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

All participants planning to enter the SPA shall verify at home (per CDC guidelines) that they are not running a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit prior to leaving for the raceway. Trainers/Grooms will be limited to no more than three persons per ship-in party, and their racing staff shall be reduced to following ratio:

1-2 horses –One Trainer or One Groom. ·

3-4 horses –One Trainer and One Groom. ·

5+ horses –One Trainer and up to Two Grooms maximum.

No Owners shall be permitted in the SPA.

Communications should be carried out electronically where possible. All participants shall always maintain 6 feet of separation.

Hand Sanitizer will be available throughout the paddock for employees and in all areas in the barn area, drivers lounge, rest rooms and paddock for horsemen.

EVERYONE INCLUDING EMPLOYEES, TRAINERS, DRIVERS, AND GROOMS MUST ALWAYS WEAR A MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AS REQUIRED.

Health and CDC Guidelines will be available to everyone on site and each person on the grounds will have instruction show to access the CDC Health website for more protocol if Covid-19 shall become present on the property.

The Western New York Harness Horseman’s Association (WNYHHA) agrees to comply with all guidelines set in place for all Horsemen and Women to be able to work and race. The WNYHHA shall work in concert with the track to monitor and maintain an accurate list of the horsemen and women participating each racing day.

Todd Haight, Batavia Downs Paddock Safety Coordinator, shall be available to both Horsemen and Employees to help implement strict Covid-19 protocol, be the contact person for New York Gaming Commission and institute protocol in the case of a suspected case of Covid-19 on property.

5. Designated Personnel shall aid in monitoring the SPA by filling the following roles:

Providing protective gloves and sanitizer stations where possible.

Provide instruction as needed on the best use of the protective gear.

Monitoring that participants always remain 6 feet apart.

Relaying information to the Paddock Judge.

Every effort will be made to reduce the amount of people touching surfaces. Pre-assigned “runners, normally groomers”, shall provide hot water and other items for trainers. The “runners” shall always wear protective gloves and masks and remain 6 feet away from all participants. (Alternative –one person mans the faucets and will fill buckets that are left for them to grab and fill. The person manning the faucet must wear protective gloves and mask).

6. Racing Office:

The Office of the Racing Secretary and the New York Gaming and Racing Commission offices will be allowed to operate as it has in the past given the following criteria is followed.

Desks must be set to allow for social distancing, and all racing officials must wear Personal Protection Equipment.

Every effort should be made to reduce the number of personnel in the race office.

Entries will be taken Tuesday for Friday, Wednesday for Saturday, Thursday for Sunday and Monday and Friday for Wednesday. The entry box will close at 9:00 a.m.

Entries must be placed on the USTA on-line entry system; or by telephone. No paper entries will be accepted and the race office will be limited to two (2) occupants at any one time. If anyone needs assistance with the online entry system or are unfamiliar with how to place on line entries they should contact the race office.

7. Daily Training Hours:

Daily training hours on the main track will be 6:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and 6:00 a.m. until 2 p.m., on the training track, Monday through Saturday. Both tracks will close at 1 p.m. on race days. There is no training on either track on Sunday.

Race Day Specific Rules:

1. Ship-In Entries; Horses Stabled on the Grounds

Ship-In entries will be limited to a 75 mile radius. No horses will be allowed to ship-in from Canada or out of New York State.

Any trainer who decides to race outside the 75 mile radius or out of state or Canada (trainer or driver), will have entire stables entries refused for 15 days.

Any driver who decides to race outside the 75 mile radius or out of state or Canada except to compete in a New York Sire Stakes event will not be allowed to participate at Batavia Downs for 15 days.

Any horse that has started in a qualifying or overnight race outside the 75 mile radius will be ineligible to enter an overnight race at Batavia Downs or be stabled on the grounds until the horse has been contained within the 75 mile radius for 15 days. Verification is required.

An exception to this rule MAY be made for New York Sire Stakes horses only at the discretion of the management of Batavia Downs.

2. Qualifying Races

Qualifying races and schoolers will begin at a time to be determined based on the number of entries and races. Qualifiers will either be held on Wednesdays or Saturdays depending on the racing schedule.

Qualifiers will be limited to four (4) qualifying races per night. **Remember – if you are approved by the race office for entry to the paddock, you must have your temperature checked at the designated location adjacent to the paddock. Everyone including employees admitted to the paddock must wear a mask at all times. You must be prepared with your own masks.**

3. Activities upon Arrival –Trainers and Grooms:

On race days, the following protocols shall be strictly adhered to:

Transportation:

Ship-in/ barns will be issued and used based on the proper number of stalls per trainer, with social distancing considered. Horses will be stalled in groups by trainer.

Transportation into the stable area is only permitted with security approval from Batavia Downs and hours for permitted shipping will be conducted by management.

4. Check-In:

Security personnel will log all those who enter by name, license, date, and time. A work list for Employees and Horsemen shall always be made in advance and on site for Security to have and for CDC health guidelines posted at the entry points to be followed, this will include (Employees/Directors/etc.).

Upon entering the secure area and parking, all trainers, grooms, and drivers shall present themselves for temperature scanning by trained staff on site.

A Covid-19 Questionnaire will need to be filled out by everyone entering the premises each day. A backstretch roster will be kept at the main entrance by security each day with a list of who can enter the racing premises.

A meeting will be held on the premises by management prior to the first day of racing on all Covid-19 protocol.

Anyone with a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit shall immediately leave the paddock area and their horses will be scratched (NO EXCEPTIONS, SO PLEASE CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE BEFORE TRUCKING IN).

Anyone who comes into the racing premises and becomes sick upon entering, that name will be reported to the New York State Health Department and the Local Health Department.

Upon passing the temperature scan, the trainer shall report to the paddock judge and report that the entries are on-site. Six feet of separation shall be maintained for this communication.

5. Paddock Procedures:

The paddock has been reconfigured to accommodate five races at a time.

Horses will be allowed in the paddock (1) hour before their scheduled post times.

All stalls will be sanitized after horses leave their stalls to race or after departing the paddock wash stalls. This process will continue until the race card is complete.

After each race, horses are to go directly to the wash stalls to wash down immediately. If a horse is called for testing by the commission, the horse must be transferred to the designated test stalls. If a horse is not called for testing after the race, it must be removed as soon as possible.

All trainers and grooms must wear masks and gloves when bringing a horse to the paddock to race.

Same procedure will be followed post-race with drivers to remove their race bikes and relocate them for their next drive. Facial coverings must be disposed of and replaced once used and soiled by everyone.

Limiting of objects in the paddock and barn area will always be monitored by management. Hand sanitizer will be available at each barn throughout the facility as well as in the paddock and inside all bathroom facilities on the premises.

Signage will be placed inside the paddock area to control traffic direction at all times.

Lasix shall be administered by the designated veterinarian at its normal location in front of barn 11. Six feet of separation between all individuals shall be maintained.

Attending veterinarian will record time of administration and volume given and provide this information to the NYGC.

6. Horse and Handler Check-Out / Leaving:

After each race, the paddock stalls area will be disinfected with a sanitizing solution.

After conclusion of the race and after using the wash stalls the handler must leave with the horse unless tending to other horses. In that case the trainer must leave

immediately with the horse. Then the handler may remain with the other horse they are tending to.

Horses and equipment shall either be washed at home (preferable) or outside the trainer's trailer or other pre-assigned ship in or barn area.

Horses to be tested will report to the testing stalls where the above protocol shall continue.

Race Day Specific Activities upon Arrival –Drivers:

1. Check-In:

Upon entering the secure area and parking, all drivers shall present themselves for temperature scanning. Anyone with a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit shall immediately leave the paddock area.

Drivers are encouraged to come prepared by having their colors on. Should drivers need to change, the drivers lounge will be available but with the following conditions: Only two drivers in the locker room at a time. No exceptions.

A safe distance of at least six feet must be maintained. Drivers should vocally call out to see how many are in the locker room prior to entering the doorway.

2. Check-Out / Leaving:

Upon the driver's last race of the day, he/she should leave the paddock immediately.

3. Winners Circle Photos

The track shuttle will not be in use. **The winning horse and driver only will return to the winners circle for the picture.** NO PERSON MAY LEAVE THE PADDOCK FOR A PHOTO. There will be no winner's circle presentation or photos of the winning horse besides with the winning driver. While waiting between races, drivers should maintain social distancing protocols at all times.

VIOLATIONS

Any horse person, employee of Batavia Downs or the New York State Gaming Commission who refuses to follow these Policies and Procedures, and/or acts in a manner that in the sole opinion of Batavia Downs and its designated employees, increases the risk of COVID-19 exposure or spread will be immediately escorted off the premises.

There will be zero tolerance for anyone who violates the rules.