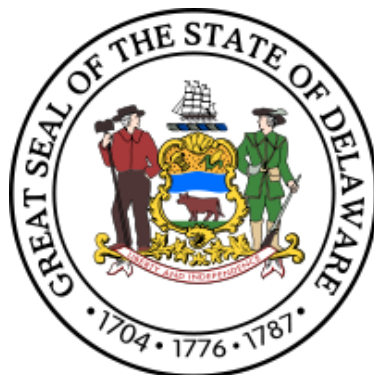


# 2018 Annual Report



# 2018 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## Mission Statement

To protect, promote, serve, and regulate the Harness Racing Industry and uphold its honesty and integrity in a competent and impartial manner.

## Purpose

The Delaware Harness Racing Commission (DHRC) regulates and oversees the sport of harness racing in the state of Delaware.

## Objectives

1. To protect, preserve and promote agriculture and horse racing through effective and efficient efforts to prevent and eliminate corrupt practices.
2. To ensure fairness in decision affecting licensees and patrons; and ensure due process in administrative proceedings.
3. To be responsive to the public and licensees and provide information concerning the industry and DHRC operations.

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# Executive Summary

## **Purse, Race and Handle Statistics**

Delaware enjoyed another very successful harness racing season in 2018, with 147 race days and 1,841 races total (down from 2017 totals of 159 and 2,026). Including stake races, Dover Downs (DD) and Harrington Raceway Inc. (HRI) distributed approximately \$14.1M and \$8.6M, respectively, for total of over \$22.7M in 2018. The total revenue for the casinos (from slots, tables, sports and pari-mutuel) held close to 2017 levels at \$24.9M.

In 2018, expenses associated with Delaware Standardbred Owners Association (DSOA) deducted from the purse account were as follows: \$703,500 for operations; \$216,000 for pensions, and \$2,552,400 for insurance.

The Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund (DSBF) successfully promotes the production and improvement of Delaware-based Standardbreds, as well as the prominence of the state's harness racing industry in North America. The DSBF distributed about \$2.8M in purse funds in 2018.

## **Commission Rules/Procedures**

Through adherence to the highest standards of integrity, the Delaware Harness Racing Commission (DHRC) effectively regulated the sport of harness racing in the First State. Various improvements were made to internal procedures and regulatory protocols. As usual, the latest amendments to USTA's rules were reviewed and appropriate revisions were adopted into the DHRC rules.

Continuous review and improvement is standard practice. Human drug testing protocols were assessed and additional changes were made in 2018. After attempting for a short time, an instant result urine test, the DHRC switched back to a lab-based test using saliva as the test medium. The saliva test presents many advantages over urine testing. The results are more indicative of a donor's recent drug use and both the difficulties and awkwardness of obtaining a urine sample are eliminated.

Centrifuges were purchased in 2018 to improve the equine drug testing program. Each post-race sample is centrifuged to separate red blood cells and plasma to yield a more stable sample for shipping and analysis. This simple step in the field has improved analytical protocol in the lab.

### **Commission Personnel**

The more than twenty DHRC personnel are strongly encouraged to cross-train, thereby improving morale and operational flexibility. In addition, the DHRC maintains high standards of training and continues to participate in the national accreditation program. Additional Paddock Inspectors were hired in 2018 due to turnover, and to meet anticipated and often high rates of illness which occur when racing during the winter months at Dover Downs.

DHRC Chief Veterinarian John Whiston and Veterinarian Dr. Kristen Near both attended continuing education classes. With the assistance and advice of Dr. Jay Baldwin, we were able to increase our pool of capable and experienced back-up (fill-in) veterinarians as well. Currently, we enjoy the benefits of an exemplary Veterinary Team.

Wayne Truitt declined the offered work schedule in the spring of 2018 and Bob Delisi transitioned from part-time (fill-in) to full-time Paddock Judge. Mr. Delisi vastly improved paddock efficiency and the licensees' satisfaction related to paddock operations.

Due to staff movement and attrition, the investigation team was trimmed from 3.5 to 2 personnel. The search for a qualified additional Investigator was not successful; however, the vacant position will be advertised again in the fall of 2019.

### **Equine Drug Testing**

Both the frequency and quality of the drug screening programs are continuously assessed and adjusted for improvement. In 2018, a total of 2,194 pre-race blood gas tests were completed in-house. Dalare Lab continues to service the Commission by providing analysis of post-race (blood/urine) and out-of-competition (blood) samples. A total of 1,841 (blood) and 1,437 (urine) post-race samples (full spectrum analysis) and 78 out-of-competition samples (EPO) were collected and analyzed in 2018. In 2015, the DHRC passed new rules related to the use of cobalt. In order to monitor the use of cobalt and enforce the new regulation related to its use, the DHRC initiated a blood plasma cobalt testing protocol. A total of 294 samples were collected and analyzed for cobalt in 2018.

### **Human Drug Testing**

In 2018, 6,744 breathalyzer screenings were conducted (for alcohol presence) and 168 human (urine/saliva) test samples were collected for drug testing (full spectrum abuse/misuse analysis). The continued monitoring of possible drug use/abuse in human and equine participants is paramount to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in

Delaware horse racing. Our drug testing sample collection and analytical protocols, as well as testing parameters, are constantly monitored for quality improvement.

### **Budget**

It is important to remember the state fiscal year (SFY) runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> and the annual report is based on the calendar year. In general, the following relates to the 2018 calendar year. Casino revenue is a source of funding for the DHRC and DSBF operations. Some costs are directly paid by the tracks, such as laboratory services and supplies (not shown in the DHRC Operating Budget) and salaries (which are shown in the operating budget), and other costs are covered by funds channeled through the Lottery Office to the DHRC (some salaries). Many operating expenses are funded by the fines and fees holding account. The SFY2018 DHRC budget was approximately \$1.6M, including personnel, travel, contractual, supplies, and fingerprints. DHRC operations are performed well within budgeted parameters. In fact, the DHRC again plans to complete the SFY under budget.

### **Conclusion**

As the 2014 economic impact study showed, Delaware horse racing is a vibrant and healthy industry, contributing \$182M to the State's economy annually and accounting for 1,540 jobs. However, the reductions in gaming revenue and total handle over the last few years cannot be ignored. The DHRC is mindful of and responsive to this situation. Many DHRC cost saving measures have been implemented since 2014 and that practice will continue. The DHRC constantly reviews internal procedures and we will continue the practice of on-going assessment and improvement to reduce costs and increase efficiency. The DHRC will also continue to identify methods and measures (education, rules, procedures, testing, and investigation) to ensure the integrity of racing in the First State.

It will take all stakeholders (regulators, politicians, casinos/tracks, horsemen, and support businesses) working together to ensure the continued success of this important industry, which contributes significantly to our history and economy. Solutions which consider the needs of and provide a positive impact to both the horsemen and casino/tracks must be identified and implemented.

# 2018 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## **Delaware Harness Racing Commission**

Chairman, Beverly Steele  
Vice-Chairman, Patt Wagner  
Commissioner, George P. Staats  
Commissioner, Jack Berberian  
Commissioner, Stephanie Liguori  
Executive Director, Mark A. Davis  
Counsel, Andrew Kerber, ESQ  
Prosecuting Counsel, Stacey Cohee, ESQ  
Administrative Specialist, Donna Krol\*

## **DHRC Judges**

Presiding Judge, Brian Manges\*  
Associate Judge, Brent McLaren  
Associate Judge, Norman Short  
Alternate Judge Randy Rosenthal  
Paddock Judge, Bob Delisi

## **DHRC Veterinarians**

John Whiston, DVM  
Kristen Near, VMD

## **Investigative Unit**

Chief Investigator, Lauren Torres  
Investigator, Dan Caldwell (Jan – June)  
Investigator, Handley Orr

## **Blood Gas Analyst**

Wes Gerardi\*  
Jennifer Hobbs\*  
Trish MacDonald\* (fill-in)

## **Office of Licensing**

Holly Ventura\*  
Alyssa Anderson  
Robert Moore  
Nikki Tome

## **Equine Identifiers**

Trish MacDonald\*  
Nikki Tome (Training)

## **BAC Technician**

Robin Killen

## **Chief Paddock Inspectors**

Jennifer Hobbs\*  
Kaitlyn Leonard\*  
Carolynn Poore\*

## **Paddock Inspector**

Lynn Dodenhoff\*  
Mollie Moore  
Morgan Nichols  
Richie Cannon  
Jonathan Moore  
Nikki Tome\*  
Faith Parker

## **DE Standardbred Breeders Fund**

Administrator, Judy Davis-Wilson

\*Denoted personnel trained in more than one job function

# 2018 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## **Personnel Training and Conferences**

Cross-training continues to be a cornerstone of the DHRC personnel management strategy. Cross-training strengthens both the individual employee and the operation as a whole. DHRC personnel are cross-trained in multiple job duties whenever possible; and as noted on the personnel roster, many DHRC paddock staff are trained in multiple job functions.

DHRC personnel are also encouraged to utilize the state training/education programs through OMB. The state offers courses in First State Financial system (FSF), management education, personal skill building and others.

In 2018, DHRC Executive Director, Mark Davis attended:

- Dan Patch Awards, Florida, February
- ARCI Annual Meeting, Arkansas, April
- Hambletonian Stakes Races, Meadowlands Racetrack, August
- Standardbred Horse Sale, Harrisburg, PA, November

Chief Investigator, Lauren Torres attended the 2018 Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI) annual training seminar, in Canada.

Judge Norman Short attended USTA Judges School, Meadows Racetrack, November

Dr. Kristen Near attended RMTC's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Regulatory Veterinary Training

## **Personnel Accreditation**

Judges working at Delaware's Harness tracks are fully licensed by the United States Trotting Association (USTA) and accredited through the University of Louisville. The Judges regularly attend continuing education sessions through the Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP); [www.horseracingofficials.com](http://www.horseracingofficials.com)



# 2018 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## Licensing Office Activity

LICENSE TYPE	FEE	# ISSUED	TOTALS
OWNER 1 YR	\$50.00	384	\$19,200.00
TRAINER 1 YR	\$50.00	82	\$4,100.00
DRIVER 1 YR	\$50.00	15	\$750.00
OWN/TRNR/DRIVER 1 YR	\$50.00	29	\$1,450.00
OWNER 2 YR	\$100.00	154	\$7,700.00
TRAINER 2 YR	\$100.00	5	\$500.00
DRIVER 2 YR	\$100.00	2	\$200.00
OWN/TRNR/DRIVER 2 YR	\$100.00	10	\$1,000.00
OWNER 3 YR	\$150.00	148	\$22,200.00
TRAINER 3 YR	\$150.00	15	\$2,250.00
DRIVER 3 YR	\$150.00	3	\$450.00
OWN/TRNR/DRIVER 3 YR	\$150.00	12	\$1,800.00
AUTH. AGENT	\$50.00	1	\$50.00
VENDOR	\$50.00	4	\$200.00
VENDOR EMPLOYEE	\$20.00	7	\$140.00
GROOM	\$20.00	242	\$4,840.00
TRACK PERSONNEL	\$20.00	67	\$1,340.00
<b>TOTAL LICENSES</b>		<b>1,180</b>	<b>\$68,240.00</b>
<b>FINGERPRINTS</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>\$14,365.00</b>
<b>APPEALS</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
<b>FINES</b>	<b>vary</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$24,865.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$108,270.00</b>

# 2018 Delaware Harness Racing Commission

## Equine Drug Testing Program

TYPE	2015 TOTALS	2016 TOTALS	2017 TOTALS	2018 TOTAL
<b>No. of Starters</b>	<b>19,121</b>	<b>18,102</b>	<b>16,417</b>	<b>15,010</b>
Pre-Race Testing (BG, In-house)	4,293	3,075	2,691	2,194
Post-Race Testing (Dalare)	Urine: 2,459 Blood: 2,745	Urine: 2,074 Blood: 2,464	Urine: 1,655 Blood: 2,036	Urine: 1,437 Blood: 1,841
Out of Competition Testing (Dalare)	18	26	128 OCT 22 Qualifiers (w/ 2 positives) 11 Tongue Ties	78
Cobalt	128	385	344	294
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>9,643</b>	<b>8,024</b>	<b>6,887</b>	<b>5,844</b>

## Human Drug Testing Program and Searches

TYPE	2015 TOTALS	2016 TOTALS	2017 TOTALS	2018 TOTALS
Human (Urine) Drug Testing	185	232	165	168
Breathalyzer (In-house)	8,828	8,635	7,558	6,744
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>9,013</b>	<b>8,867</b>	<b>7,723</b>	<b>6,912</b>
Truck/Trailer Searches	345	410	400	142

## 2018 Delaware Harness Commission Racetrack Handle Statistics

	<b>TOTAL RACING STATISTICS</b>					
	<b>2013 Totals</b>	<b>2014 Totals</b>	<b>2015 Totals</b>	<b>2016 Totals</b>	<b>2017 Totals</b>	<b>2018 Totals</b>
<b>Live Racing Days</b>	194	189	176	176	159	142
<b>Races</b>	2,712	2,711	2,474	2,277	2,026	1,828
<b>Races per Day (avg.)</b>	13.9	14.3	14.1	14	13	13
<b>Total On-track Live Handle</b>	\$3,230,610	\$3,069,987	\$2,945,924	\$2,286,306	\$1,846,505	\$1,878,155
<b>Total Off-track Handle</b>	\$90,497,040	\$90,124,176	\$77,120,856	\$67,172,168	\$57,780,063	\$48,954,983
<b>Total Live Handle</b>	\$93,727,560	\$93,194,163	\$79,976,777	\$69,458,474	\$59,632,568	\$50,833,138

These figures are summed from the Monthly Administrator's Report

# 2018 Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund

The Delaware Standardbred Breeders' Fund was created to oversee a state-based breeding program.

- The DSBF Board is made up of 11 appointed members.
- The DSBF Administrator, Judy Davis-Wilson, oversees both the Sires and Racing Programs.
- These programs consist of a minimum of 48 races per year equally divided between two of the state's race tracks; Dover Downs and Harrington Raceway.
- These 48 races include 2 Eliminations and a \$100k Final at each track, for each division.
- The DSBF strives to maintain a competitive level of purses and to keep the flow of hybrid vigor among Delaware bred Standardbreds, by annually contributing to the base of horses racing at the states' two harness tracks.
- The DSBF Administrator markets and showcases Delaware bred horses at major Standardbred sales (such as the Harrisburg Sale) and supports educational events. These annual events include the Harness Horse Youth Camp and Clyde Hirt Writers' Workshop.
- Another important annual event for the DSBF is Governor's Day, held at the Delaware State Fair each July.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Stallions Registered</b>	35	41	40	35	33	36	36
<b>Mares Bred</b>	394	360	282	282	217	251	347
<b>Yearlings Registered</b>	178	217	192	201	147	153	116
<b>2&amp;3 Year Old Payments</b>	432	422	510	473	468	341	344

Total Bonus Paid to DSBF 2 & 3 Year Olds in DSBF Events: **\$247,012.00**

Total Purses Paid: **\$2,862,400.00**

## 2018 Final Winners

3 Year Olds @ Dover Downs / 3-29-2018

Super Fly, Go Sandy Go, Déjà Vu Blue, Slick Tony

3 Year Olds @ Harrington Raceway/ 7-26-18

Super Fly, Jamie's Renegade, Star Sapphire, Slick Tony

2 Year Olds @ Harrington Raceway / 10-3-18

Just As Striking, The Lady Sherriff, Disco Soleil, Chillaxin Away

2 Year Olds @ Dover Downs / 11-29-2018

Disco Soleil, Embrace The Grind, Chillaxin Away, Roddys At It Again

