

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DELAWARE JOCKEY'S HEALTH AND WELFARE BOARD

Statutory Authority: 3 Delaware Code, Section 10171(c), and 29 Delaware Code, Section 4815(b)3(c)
(3 **Del.C.** §10171(c); 29 **Del.C.** §4815(b)3(c))
3 **DE Admin. Code** 1002

PROPOSED

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Delaware Jockey's Health and Welfare Board in accordance with 3 **Del.C.** §10171(c) and 29 **Del.C.** §4815(b)3(c), has proposed changes to its rules and regulations. The proposal amends the rules and regulations regarding criteria for an active Delaware Jockey to be eligible for health insurance under the Delaware Jockey's Health and Welfare Fund by increasing the minimum number of mounts from 25 to 50.

A public hearing will be held on April 11, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. in the second floor conference room of the Horseman's Office, located on the grounds of Delaware Park, 777 Delaware Park Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware 19804 where members of the public can offer comments. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the proposed regulations may obtain a copy from the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission, 777 Delaware Park Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware 19804. Persons wishing to submit written comments may forward these to the Commission at the above address. The final date to receive written comments will be at the public hearing.

The Commission will consider promulgating the proposed regulation at its regularly scheduled meeting following the public hearing.

1002 Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Benefit Board Regulations

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 These regulations are authorized pursuant to 3 **Del.C.** §10171 and 29 **Del.C.** §4815(b)3c which established a Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Benefit Board (hereinafter "the Board") and Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Benefit Fund (hereinafter "the Fund").
- 1.2 The Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Benefit Board shall consist of 1 member of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission, 1 member from the licensed agent under Chapter 1010 of **Title 3** or Chapter 4 of **Title 28**, 1 member of the Delaware Horsemen's Association, 1 representative from the organization that represents the majority of the jockeys who are licensed and ride regularly in Delaware, and 2 jockeys who are licensed and ride regularly in Delaware. The Chairman of the Thoroughbred Racing Commission shall serve as an *ex officio* member, and vote on matters in the event of a tie vote on any issue. All members shall be appointed by the Thoroughbred Racing Commission, and shall serve a two year term.
- 1.3 The Board shall elect a Chairperson from among the appointed members of the Board. The Chairperson shall serve a two year term and may serve consecutive terms. The Chairperson shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the Board.
- 1.4 The Board shall administer the Fund pursuant to these regulations and other reasonable criteria for benefit eligibility.
- 1.5 A special fund of the State has been established and will be known as the "Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Benefit Fund." The Fund shall consist of the proceeds transferred from the licensed video lottery agent and the purse account pursuant to 29 **Del.C.** §4815(b)3c. The proceeds transferred to the Fund will be maintained in an account established in the Department of Agriculture.
- 1.6 The Fund will be invested by the State Treasurer consistent with the investment policies established by the Cash Management Policy Board. All income earned by the Fund will be reinvested in the Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Benefit Fund.
- 1.7 The Board shall use the Fund to provide for jockeys who regularly ride in Delaware, health benefits for active, disabled and retired jockeys. The Board may also expend usual and customary expenses for administrative purposes from the Fund.
- 1.8 The Thoroughbred Racing Commission's Administrator of Racing will provide administrative support to the Board and keep minutes of all the meetings of the Board and preserve all records of the Board. The Board's Office will be considered as part of the Office of the Thoroughbred Racing Commission.
- 1.9 The Board can propose to amend these regulations by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Board.

2.0 Eligibility Criteria for Health Coverage

- 2.1 The Board will pay from the Fund for health coverage for active jockeys who regularly ride in Delaware, eligible retired jockeys, and disabled Delaware jockeys.
 - 2.1.1 An Active Delaware Jockey, who regularly rides in Delaware, is eligible for health insurance coverage under the fund, if the jockey had ~~twenty-five (25)~~ fifty (50) mounts in a Delaware Park season at Delaware Park; and
 - 2.1.1.1 If the jockey's Delaware Park mounts are less than 100 in a Delaware Park season, then 50% or more of that jockey's total mounts during the regular Delaware Park season must be at Delaware Park.
 - 2.1.1.2 If the jockey's Delaware Park mounts are 100 or more in a Delaware Park season, the jockey is eligible for health insurance coverage, regardless of the amount of total mounts at other tracks.
 - 2.1.2 A Retired Delaware Jockey is eligible for health insurance coverage under the Fund if:
 - 2.1.2.1 The Jockey was receiving health insurance coverage as a retired jockey provided by the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission's health insurance plan with the Jockey's Guild on January 1, 2006; or
 - 2.1.2.2 The Jockey rode a minimum of 100 mounts at Delaware Park during the regular Delaware Park season for at least seven years.
 - 2.1.3 A disabled Delaware Jockey's spouse and dependents qualify for health benefits if the disabled jockey meets all of the following requirements:
 - 2.1.3.1 The jockey was an active participant in the Delaware Jockeys' Health and Welfare Fund benefit program at the time of the on-track accident that resulted in total and permanent disability; and
 - 2.1.3.2 Be deemed permanently disabled by Social Security and qualify for Medicare as a result of an injury sustained during the regular Delaware Park season on the premises of Delaware Park, and arising in the course of his/her participation as a licensed jockey.
- 2.2 A jockey and/or the jockey's family who meets the eligibility requirements of either an active Delaware jockey, a retired Delaware jockey, or a disabled Delaware jockey's family will be entitled to health coverage beginning on the first of the month after it can be determined the eligibility requirement has been met, and continuing until December 31st of the next calendar year.
- 2.3 The Board will pay from the Fund for health coverage for the dependents of active jockeys who regularly ride in Delaware, eligible retired jockeys, and disabled Delaware jockeys.
 - 2.3.1 Eligibility for coverage for dependants will be determined by the company providing the insurance coverage.

9 DE Reg. 1749 (05/01/06)

13 DE Reg. 1536 (06/01/10)

15 DE Reg. 60 (07/01/11)

15 DE Reg 1243 (03/01/12) (Prop.)