

**Ontario
Racing
Commission**

Suite 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 6L2
Tel 416 213-0520
Fax 416 213-7827

**Commission
des courses
de l'Ontario**

Bureau 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto (Ontario)
M9W 6L2
Tél 416 213-0520
Télééc 416 213-7827



April 23, 2013

**ONTARIO RACING PROGRAM
Implementation Criteria 1–2013
(Replaces Implementation Criteria 1-2011)**

Ontario Racing Program Elements

1. Classification of Daily Racing Programs
2. Daily Purse Levels – Minimum and Maximum
3. Races per card – Minimum and Maximum

Background

The framework for the Ontario Racing Program was approved by Board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) in 2010, a Program which lays out a new model for racing in the province. Developed over a year in consultation with the industry, the Framework lays out the principles to guide how horse racing is conducted.

Implementation of the Ontario Racing Program has been and will continue to be monitored to ensure the criteria are supporting the goals of the Framework. As with all aspects of the Ontario Racing Program, any new initiative will be reworked or modified if it is not positively affecting or supporting the Ontario Racing Program (ORP) in the long term. The racing community is encouraged to contact the ORP Implementation and Monitoring Group with opinions or details of their experiences with the new changes, both positive and negative.

As directed by the ORC Board relating to implementation of the Ontario Racing Program, the following standards apply to the conduct of racing on approved race dates of each racetrack in Ontario, and all licensees are directed to comply with them accordingly:

1. Classification of Daily Racing Programs

Racing programs or cards for any approved race date will be classified in one of three ways as follows:

- a) **Grassroots** means a community based racing card that is not normally simulcast, where the racetrack operation meets all requirements for its category under the Minimum Standards Program or as required by the implementation of the Ontario Racing Program.
- b) **Signature** means a wagering customer focused racing card that is simulcast primarily for a domestic market and which serves as the undercard for any Premier card, where the racetrack operation meets all requirements for its category under the Minimum Standards Program or as required by the implementation of the Ontario Racing Program.
- c) **Premier** means a wagering customer focused racing card of the highest quality of Ontario product that is simulcast for the domestic and international market, where the racetrack operation meets all requirements for its category under the Minimum Standards Program or as required by the implementation of the Ontario Racing Program.

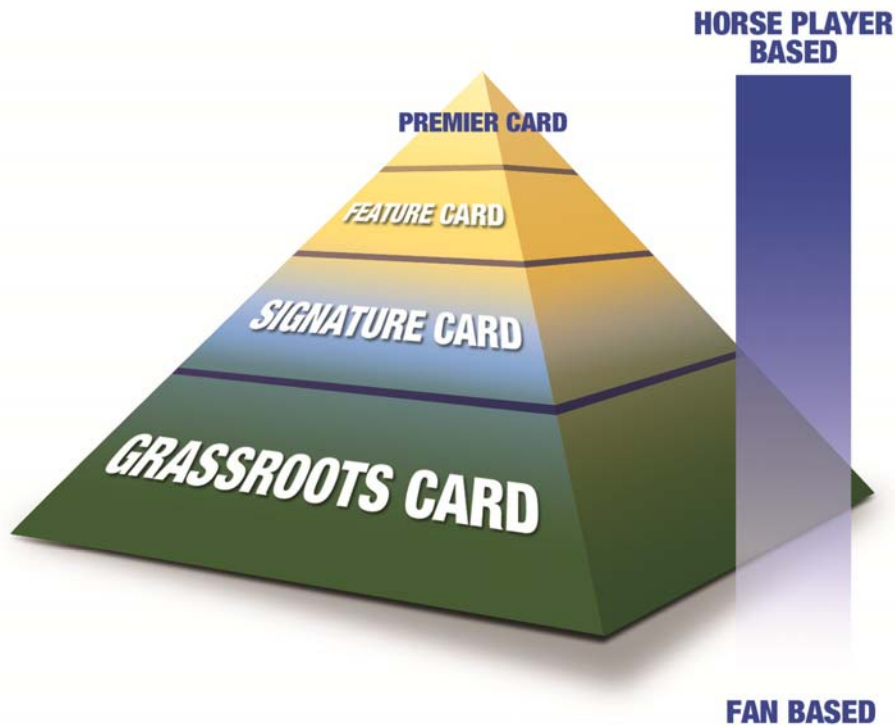
This classification of racing is tied to a race date, not a racetrack. Racetrack operators can apply, or the Director may assign as part of the race date approval process, the category of card for any race date. A racetrack may operate different cards at different times of the season and/or week (Grassroots on Saturdays, Signature on Thursdays OR Grassroots in spring and Signature during the summer).

Where standards are associated with each level of classification (for example daily purse levels) the racetrack operator may apply for certain temporary or permanent exemptions, for special events or regional considerations.

It is expected that as the Ontario Racing Program develops, standards will continue to be established and communicated to the participants.

The strength of the Ontario racing industry builds from a broad base of horses, participants and customers that ultimately rise through the levels based on ability to support the top level of participation in the industry – the Premier level. The health of the entire industry is dependent on a strong and successful “flag ship”, that being a product that is strong, viable and sold both domestically and internationally. It is for that reason that the concept is hierarchical, with a structure intended to support the racing objectives of the Premier product. The other levels of racing (Signature and Grassroots) have defined roles to play in the continued success of the province’s highest level of racing. The Premier product is reliant on a vibrant and healthy grassroots level, to be the feeder system of quality participants and horses that rise to the top as they develop. Similarly this model can be applied to the customers – exposure to the industry usually starts at an entertainment level, dinner at the races, going to see a friend’s horse race. This evolves over time as interest grows, and the fan based customer shifts to become a horse player or a purchaser of horses. It is through this two-way symbiotic relationship that the Ontario industry as a whole will prosper.

This relationship is best described as a pyramid as illustrated below:



2. Daily Purse Levels – Minimum and Maximum

The total distribution of daily purse for racing must fall within the following ranges, dependent upon the classification of race program:

Thoroughbred Race Program	Minimum Daily Purse	Maximum Daily Purse
Signature	\$70,000	\$100,000
Premier	\$200,000	No maximum
Standardbred Race Program	Minimum Daily Purse	Maximum Daily Purse
Grassroots	\$25,000	\$35,000
Signature	\$45,000	\$65,000
Premier	\$125,000	No maximum
Quarter Horse Race Program	Minimum Daily Purse	Maximum Daily Purse
Grassroots	\$35,000	\$55,000
Signature	\$60,000	\$90,000

Added money or stakes events are not included in the calculation of daily purse. To calculate the allowable maximum Daily Purse Level on any day that includes stakes events, divide the maximum daily purse by the daily number of races permitted and multiply by the number of non-stakes races.

The daily purse permitted within the range is calculated as an average for the week.

Any racetrack operator seeking to use more of the purse account than permitted for special event cards may do so through application to the Director, providing reasons that shall be guided by the Race Date Framework.

The intent of establishing daily purse levels is to create greater consistency across racetracks with similar operations and encouraging horses to be raced where they will have the greatest impact for the Ontario Racing Program.

3. Daily Number of Races – Minimum and Maximum

Thoroughbred Race Program	Minimum	Maximum
Grassroots	8	10
Signature	8	12
Premier	10	13

Standardbred Race Program	Minimum	Maximum
Grassroots	8	10
Signature	10	12
Premier	10	13

Quarter Horse Race Program	Minimum	Maximum
Grassroots	8	10
Signature	10	12

The range of number of races permitted per race card includes added money or stakes events.

Any racetrack operator seeking to vary from the permitted number of races may do so by application to the Director, providing reasons that shall be guided by the Race Date Framework.

The intent of establishing a range of number of races is to encourage full fields for the betting product, while defining when there are insufficient races to conduct a card of racing.



Steve Lehman
Executive Director