



ONTARIO HARNESS HORSE ASSOCIATION

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Implementation and Monitoring Group
Ontario Racing Commission
Suite 400, 10 Carlson Court
Toronto, ON M9W 6L2

Application for variance of the 2010 Racing Program for Hiawatha Horse Park

Please consider this a joint application submitted by the Ontario Harness Horse Association as well as Hiawatha Horse Park for a slight variance to the 2010 Ontario Standardbred Racing Program.

The primary objective of this application is to ensure that horsepeople have racing opportunity for signature level horses in the Western Region as defined by the Ontario Racing Commission. Currently the Western Region has two racetracks operating. Those two tracks both offer signature level race cards and collectively race seven cards per week. Windsor Raceway is racing three days a week and is offering 12 races per card or 108 racing opportunities a night. This equates to 324 racing opportunities per week. Western Fair Raceway is offering four cards per week of 12 races per card or 96 racing opportunities a night. This equates to 384 racing opportunities per week. Together the two racetracks are offering up to 708 racing opportunities at the signature level per week. Both of these racetracks will close down shortly for the summer months. The racing schedule is as follows for the tracks identified as being in the Western Region:

Windsor Raceway	Closes May 1, 2011 and reopens September 11, 2011
Western Fair Raceway	Closes May 27, 2011 and reopens October 14, 2011
Dresden Raceway	Opens May 15, 2011 and closes September 18, 2011
Hiawatha Horse Park	Opens May 5, 2011 and closes October 13, 2011

During the month of April there are 29 signature race cards scheduled in this region. In May there are 9 signature cards scheduled and 11 Grassroot cards. This is a reduction of 9 race cards per month and a loss of 20 signature level cards. In June the situation gets worse as there are no signature level cards and only 13 total Grassroot cards. With Hiawatha offering 108 racing opportunities per night and Dresden Raceway offering 96 opportunities there are only 312 racing opportunities per week. This is a reduction of approximately 45% in the Region. These are all races at the Grassroot level. This situation remains

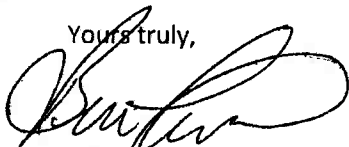
much the same until October when Western Fair Raceway re opens. Managing a racing stable will be extremely difficult with the drastic changes in quality and quantity of racing in the region.

Hiawatha Horse Park has the ability, and would like to offer signature race cards on one day a week. We propose that Signature cards would be offered on the 23 Saturday night cards. Hiawatha Horse Park has significant purse funds to offer these cards. Hiawatha Horse Park projects total purse revenues to be \$3,050,000 for the year. The projected Stakes allocation is \$150,000 which leaves \$2,900,000 for overnight purses. If Grassroot cards are carded on the 24 Thursday night cards and total purses are \$50,000 per card that would use up \$1,200,000 leaving a balance of \$1,700,000. If that money was divided equally over the 23 Saturday night cards it would allow for an average purse of \$73,913 per card. This falls right in the middle of the Signature level proposed purses of \$65,000 to \$85,000. This would allow trainers an opportunity in their home region to race signature quality horses. Even with this change to the racing model it will still be very difficult on our local horsepeople as there will be significantly less racing opportunities during the summer months than currently offered. If this request is not granted the nearest racetrack offering Signature level racing would be either Grand River Raceway or Flamboro Downs. Shipping to these racetracks creates a financial burden on our horsepeople as well as takes a physical toll on them and their horses as both are close to three hours away.

Although Hiawatha Horse Park does not broadcast the racing signal, the on track experience is one that the fans enjoy. Hiawatha Horse Park is able to generate large crowds and creates a significant on track handle. Allowing Hiawatha Horse Park to write signature race cards on one day a week will not compromise any other racetracks in the region as the only other track racing during most of the Hiawatha Horse Park season is Dresden Raceway which will be offering Grassroot cards. The Ontario Harness Horse Association and Hiawatha Horse Park, believe that this is a needed change and will positively enhance racing in the Western region during the summer months.

You can reach OHHA at 905-854-6442 or Hiawatha Horse Park at 519-542-5543 if you should require anything further.

Yours truly,



Brian Tropea
OHHA



Robert Locke
Hiawatha Horse Park