

# Race Line

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Photo: Bernard McCormack

## In This Issue

- AGCO Newsletters: We're going digital
- ROAP Continuing Education Conference: The Changing Face of Racing Official Training
- Greetings from the AGCO Chair
- Return to Racing: 2020 Season
- iAGCO Online Services for Horse Racing Licensees
- AGCO term extension of active licences, authorizations and registrations
- Adding a Horse to the EIPH Program in Ontario
- AGCO Safety and Welfare Updates

*Race Line* is the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)'s publication for Ontario's horse racing industry. Printed copies are available at open racetracks and industry associations. All issues may be viewed online in both official languages at [www.agco.ca](http://www.agco.ca).

We welcome your ideas and input. If there are topics you would like to see addressed in future publications, or if you wish to receive *Race Line* and other AGCO horse racing-related communications electronically, please email [Racing@agco.ca](mailto:Racing@agco.ca) or call 416-325-0427.

## AGCO Newsletters: We're going digital

Did you know? The AGCO will soon be moving all of its printed newsletters, including *Race Line*, to a digital format. You will still receive all the important information, updates and reminders that you're used to getting, only now they will be sent electronically. This change supports the AGCO's commitment to a digital-first approach as a modern regulator and aligns with the Ontario Government's vision for a digital government. It also complies with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

The AGCO is in the process of making this switch. Once the transition is complete, you will no longer receive a printed copy of *Race Line*. Instead, the new *Race Line* "e-newsletter" will be delivered straight to your email inbox. These emails will be a collection of articles from our new online blog - highlighting important compliance reminders, regulatory changes, and important industry news and updates.

## ROAP Continuing Education Conference: The Changing Face of Racing Official Training

In March 2020, the AGCO's Regulatory Compliance Branch collaborated with members of horse racing jurisdictions from around the world to hold its inaugural online **Racing Officials Accreditation Program** (ROAP) Continuing Education conference.

ROAP Continuing Education conferences are traditionally held in person throughout North America, providing Racing Officials with an opportunity to keep up to date

on horse racing officiating issues and trends with other international industry professionals. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGCO, in conjunction with ROAP, developed the first-ever online ROAP conference allowing speakers and participants from across Canada, the USA, Hong Kong, England and Australia to come together virtually.

Consisting of eight half-day sessions, the conference featured expert

If you have created your iAGCO account, you will automatically receive the new *Race Line* e-newsletter at the email address you used to create your account. If you do not have an account, you can subscribe to receive the e-newsletter. To subscribe, go to [www.agco.ca/subscribe](http://www.agco.ca/subscribe). You may unsubscribe at any time.

### ONLINE BLOG

Along with digital newsletters, the AGCO has also launched an online blog where news and updates are published on a regular basis. Visit the AGCO website at [www.agco.ca/blog/horse-racing/main](http://www.agco.ca/blog/horse-racing/main) to access the most up-to-date horse racing information.

Stay tuned for more information on these exciting changes.



Photo: Clive Cohen

speakers and in-depth discussions on horse racing issues, including the CPMA Equine Drug Control Program, Category 1 vs Category 2 interference, jurisdictional changes to urging rules, the development of concussion protocols in racing, and welfare initiatives for horses retiring from racing.

# Greetings from the AGCO Chair



As the new Chair of the AGCO Board of Directors, I am pleased to write you as the 2020 racing season is now well underway.

These are challenging times indeed, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing us to refocus our efforts. I am proud to say that as a result of the hard work of AGCO staff and the entire horse racing sector, the return to racing has been a success. I commend all of you for your concerted and dedicated efforts to rise to this unprecedented challenge.

Our priority as a regulator is to increase business flexibility and support the province in its efforts to contain the

pandemic while focusing on the health and safety of equine and human athletes, as well as the integrity of the sport. Our approach has included temporarily halting breathalyzer tests, implementing temporary rule amendments and automatically extending horseperson licenses by one year. We also made concerted efforts to permanently roll out the concussion protocol to Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing, revise urging rules and launch a new equine drug awareness program when racing resumed.

While it comes as no surprise, the efforts and accomplishments of the AGCO over this past year, and especially during this time of crisis, continue to give the Board of Directors the utmost confidence that we will continue to support the industries we regulate in the most innovative, efficient and sustainable ways possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Grace Kerr for her exceptional service over the past 12 years, as a Board Member and most recently as Chair. During her tenure, she oversaw the pursuit of a progressive, forward-looking agenda, positioning this agency as a world-leading regulator. The AGCO is committed to enhancing the fairness, integrity and safety of horse racing in Ontario, while enhancing public confidence, reducing administrative burden and modernizing regulation.

On behalf of the AGCO's Board of Directors, I would like to wish all of our licensees and stakeholders a safe and successful 2020 season!

Lalit Aggarwal

## Return to Racing: 2020 Season

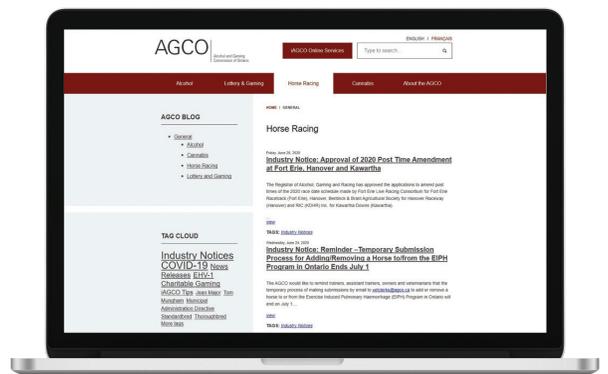
During this extraordinary time, the AGCO continues to offer guidance and support to all those who rely on our services and is working closely with the provincial government to support its greater public health objectives.

The AGCO would like to thank the horse racing industry for working together to support the return to racing. The work of industry stakeholders, including racetrack management, horsepersons' associations, veterinarians, and wagering bodies, with AGCO Racing Officials led to the examination of a range of issues including inspections of racetrack surfaces and the use of technology in racing and social distancing practices. Industry representatives also worked with the AGCO to identify temporary revisions to the Rules of Racing to accommodate the resumption of racing by reducing administrative burden, while balancing the need to uphold the health and safety of licensees and racehorses. Thank you for your collective efforts.

Racetrack operators were also required to provide the Registrar with re-opening plans, outlining their commitment to mitigating

the risks related to the spread of infectious disease and describing how they would demonstrate their compliance with public health requirements for local, regional, and provincial levels of government.

For more information on AGCO services during the COVID pandemic, see the **Horse Racing Blog Page** on the AGCO website.



## iAGCO ONLINE SERVICES FOR HORSE RACING LICENSEES

On March 2, 2020, the AGCO launched iAGCO online services for horse racing as part of its modernization efforts to enhance service and reduce red tape and administrative burden. Providing a quicker, easier, more convenient way to conduct AGCO horse racing-related transactions anytime from anywhere, iAGCO allows licensees to conduct all of their horse racing-related transactions online.

Through your iAGCO account, you can now link your information already on file and:

- go online to apply for, change and renew your licence and pay outstanding monetary penalties
- manage your applications and view the status of your files electronically
- update your profile and manage all of your applications and renewals in one place
- receive a notice of approval and your licence/registration by email once approved

- print your licences, registrations and certificates yourself – a photo or signature is no longer required
- reuse your information for all future applications, amendments and renewals once it has been saved
- only need to update your information when changes occur

In addition, the launch of iAGCO online services includes, for select licence categories:

- the introduction of multi-breed licensing, which allows applicants to apply for one licence valid across multiple breeds
- the option to select a one or two-year licence term
- simplified approval and auto-renewal

For more information, see the **iAGCO Guide for Horse Racing** on the AGCO website.

# AGCO term extension of active licences, authorizations and registrations

On March 18, 2020, the AGCO announced that in light of the extraordinary measures being taken by the Government of Ontario to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be extending all horseperson licences for one year.

Also, given the seasonal nature of horse racing, horseperson licences that had expired from September 1 2019 onward were also renewed for one year, subject to any rulings or other regulatory requirements.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Existing licences will remain in effect for the extended period identified above at no additional cost. You will receive a renewal reminder notification 60 days before your new, extended term expires. Be sure to renew your licence well ahead of your expiry date to ensure you are ready on race day.

The AGCO has made this change through its iAGCO online system. You are responsible for ensuring that you hold a valid licence, which you can do by searching for your licence in iAGCO.

To make any notifications or changes to your licence, including trainer transfers, authorizing agents or adding a horse to the EIPH program, you must use iAGCO online services. If you have been previously licensed with the AGCO, you will need an online Access Code when creating your iAGCO account. To obtain your access code please contact AGCO Customer Service at 416-326-8700 or toll free 1-800-522-2876 Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can also ask an AGCO Licensing Agent at any open track office or email a Licensing Agent: [racinglicensing@agco.ca](mailto:racinglicensing@agco.ca).

Applications for new horse racing licences and claiming certificates must also be submitted online. iAGCO online services are available anytime from anywhere at [www.agco.ca/iagco](http://www.agco.ca/iagco).

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

For more information on iAGCO online services, visit the Helpful Resources for Horse Racing Licensees section of the **iAGCO Guide for Horse Racing** on the AGCO website.

If you need assistance with your licence, registration or regulatory submission, please contact:

- AGCO Customer Service at 416-326-8700 or toll free 1-800-522-2876 Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- An AGCO Licensing Agent at any open track office
- An AGCO Licensing Agent at [racinglicensing@agco.ca](mailto:racinglicensing@agco.ca)
- For urgent matters, see the **Race Day Contact List** on the AGCO website to find the best way to get in touch

## Adding a Horse to the EIPH Program in Ontario

To add a horse to (or remove a horse from) the Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage (EIPH) Program in Ontario, you will need to make an online regulatory submission through the iAGCO portal at [www.agco.ca/iagco](http://www.agco.ca/iagco).

To ensure your horse is eligible to race, you are advised to go online and make your regulatory submission several days before the entry date for your intended race date.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

To add a horse to (or remove a horse from) the EIPH Program:

1. Complete and sign the **EIPH Program Authorization form** for each horse you are looking to add to (or remove from) the EIPH program.
2. Have your licensed veterinarian complete and sign the "Attending Veterinarian" section of the EIPH Program Authorization form.
3. Create an iAGCO Account.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

Visit the AGCO website for the **EIPH Program Authorization form** and **How to Create an iAGCO Account video**

Follow AGCO Racing on Twitter [@AGCO\\_racing](https://twitter.com/AGCO_racing)

To reach an AGCO Veterinary Clerk, email:

[sarah.beauchamp@agco.ca](mailto:sarah.beauchamp@agco.ca)  
[krista.tipping@agco.ca](mailto:krista.tipping@agco.ca)  
[lea-anne.watson@agco.ca](mailto:lea-anne.watson@agco.ca)

**NOTE:** You will need an Access Code to link your account to your existing licence:

- Call AGCO Customer Service Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 416-326-8700 or toll-free 1-800-522-2876
  - Ask an AGCO Licensing Agent at any open track office
  - Email an AGCO Licensing Agent: [racinglicensing@agco.ca](mailto:racinglicensing@agco.ca)
4. Go online to Regulatory Submission and Notifications on iAGCO, select "EIPH Program - Add or Remove Horse (Ordinarily Competing in Ontario)" and follow the steps on your screen
    - To upload your EIPH Program Authorization form, you may: (1) complete and sign the form electronically, (2) print and scan the form or (3) take a photo of it.

## NOTE

The ability to make an EIPH Program regulatory submission in iAGCO is available for trainers, assistant trainers, owners and veterinarians.

You no longer have to obtain a signature from an Official Veterinarian to complete this process (only an AGCO licensed veterinarian's signature is required).

A regulatory submission is not required for horses that are already on the Ontario EIPH program. You can use the online **Horse Search feature** on iAGCO (**version française**) to see if a horse is currently on the EIPH program.

# AGCO Safety and Welfare Updates

In May 2020, the AGCO announced four initiatives that went into effect when horse racing in Ontario resumed to advance the health and safety of equine and human athletes. They are part of the AGCO's ongoing commitment to protecting Ontario's racehorses, enhancing the integrity of racing and providing a regulatory framework appropriate for today's racing industry.

## AGCO CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

The AGCO's concussion protocol pilot project, launched at Woodbine and Fort Erie Racetracks in 2019, has now fully implemented and applies at Ajax Downs as well. The protocol has also been expanded to include incidents that occur during training.

Based on regular consultation with key stakeholders, and in particular feedback from jockeys, the program is designed so that riders, as well as other racetrack personnel, understand the need for riders to sit out when they are suffering from this brain injury for their own safety and the safety of those around them.

### Concussion Protocol Highlights:

- If a jockey or exercise rider is involved in an incident, they must be assessed for concussion symptoms by a Qualified Person, such as a paramedic, at the racetrack.
- Prior to returning to their duties, participants must provide the Racing Officials with a Fit for Duty note from a Qualified Medical Professional.
- Participants may not to ride a horse at any licensed racetrack in Ontario until they are medically cleared as Fit for Duty.

## AGCO EQUINE MEDICATION USE & AWARENESS COURSE

The AGCO has launched an e-learning program to raise horseracing licensees' awareness of their obligations related to the use of equine medication.

The AGCO Equine Medication Use and Awareness Program is a self-directed online e-learning course, designed to help prevent equine medication misuse by horseracing participants. Completing the course will be a requirement for any individual found responsible for an equine drug violation, serving as the educational component identified in section 3 of the **AGCO Penalty Guidelines for Equine Drug, TC02 and Non-Therapeutic Drug Violations**.

Individuals required to register for the course as part of a penalty ruling or agreed settlement, must complete it within the prescribed time period. For more information, see the **AGCO Equine Medication Use and Awareness Program** page on the AGCO website.

## REVISION TO RACING UNDER SADDLE RULES

The AGCO has revised the existing licence renewal process for Racing Under Saddle (RUS) races.

The revised RUS rules outlined in 25.01.01 of the **Rules of Standardbred Racing** have been modified to require:

- RUS riders to qualify three times to obtain their initial licence only

- If the rider has completed fewer than 10 rides over the previous three years, they will be required to qualify three times to renew their license
- Otherwise, RUS licences will be reinstated after one qualifying race at the beginning of each season.

To facilitate ease of accessibility for racing participants, the updated RUS rules have been embedded as an appendix of the **Rules of Standardbred Racing**. For a complete description of the rule changes, see the **Racing Under Saddle Appendix** on the AGCO website.

## URGING RULES IN ONTARIO HORSE RACING

In the fall of 2019, the AGCO introduced a "Test Period" where revision was made to the urging rules for Ontario Thoroughbred horse racing. The "Test Period" ran from October 18 to December 15, 2019 at Woodbine. Based on stakeholder input, the AGCO has determined that the revised rules enhance the health and safety of horses and participants, and the integrity of racing, and should be implemented permanently at all Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racetracks.

For Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing in 2020, the use of the crop is now limited to:

- Underhand use only, and
- No contact with the horse with the crop in the cocked position
- Prohibit any hits to the horse's belly or surrounding area

Urging rules are enforced with graduated penalties based on the number of occurrences. It is important to note that not all occurrences subsequent to the implementation of the new urging rules will be considered a "first offence".

For more information about additional AGCO horse racing initiatives, see the **Horse Racing Information Bulletins** section of the AGCO website.



Photo: Dave Landry



Stay up to Date! Follow us on Twitter @AGCO\_Racing

## Race Line

This newsletter is published by the **Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario** to provide licensees and interested parties with information regarding horse racing legislation and related issues. Reader comments and content suggestions are welcome.

### Editor

Alcohol and Gaming  
Commission of Ontario  
90 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200  
Toronto, Ontario M2N 0A4

[Racing@agco.ca](mailto:Racing@agco.ca)

### General Inquiries

416-326-8700 or toll free in Ontario 1-800-522-2876  
Online Inquiries: [agco.ca/iagco](http://agco.ca/iagco)  
Web: [agco.ca](http://agco.ca)

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