

MTC SPORTS AND LEISURE LTD

PORT-LOUIS



MAURITIUS

CHAMP DE MARS

DIRECTIONS FOR RACING – 2021

Unless otherwise defined, terms used in these Directions have the same meaning as in the Rules of Racing of the MTC Sports and Leisure Ltd (MTCSL).

A. HORSE POPULATION

- A.1 Each trainer must have under his care no less than 10 and no more than 50 horses at any one time during the racing season. Each trainer must have imported at least 5 new horses before the commencement of the racing season.
- A.2 In the case of a transfer of a horse from the care of a trainer to another trainer, the effective date (the “Effective Date”) of transfer shall be determined in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 6 of the Racehorse Owner’s Agreement for the 2021 racing season. An owner will be permitted a maximum of 3 stable transfers in a season.
- A.3 If at any time during the racing season, a trainer has under his care fewer than the prescribed number of horses, he must diligently increase his horse population to the minimum set out in A.1. The Administrators will set the deadline by which the trainer must comply with this obligation.
- A.4 Boxes will be allocated in Port Louis and Floréal in accordance with the schedule appearing in the current *contrat de gérance* of trainers.

B. TRAINER’S HORSE POPULATION

- B.1 A horse which does not race for 3 consecutive months or more or has been retired or has been temporarily withdrawn from racing by its trainer or banned by the Racing Stewards shall no longer form part of a trainer’s horse population.
- B.2 A trainer must apply to the Racing Stewards to reinstate in training a horse that no longer forms part of his horse population. The Racing Stewards may impose such conditions as they deem appropriate in relation to the reinstatement of any horse in training.

C. NOMINATIONS

- C.1 A trainer must not nominate a horse unless (i) its identity has been verified by the trainer and confirmed by the Racing Stewards; (ii) it has performed at least 1 barrier trial to the reasonable satisfaction of the Racing Stewards (although the Racing Stewards may waive this requirement in exceptional circumstances, e.g., weather conditions which do not allow barrier trials to be held); and (iii) it has been under the care of the trainer for at least 8 clear days prior to the race meeting for which the trainer proposes to nominate it.
- C.2 A trainer must nominate a horse no later than 8:30 am on the Tuesday immediately preceding the race meeting at which he proposes to run that horse. Nominations must be made by submitting a

duly completed nomination form in the designated box or in such other manner (including by electronic mail) as MTCSL may designate from time to time.

- C.3 No horse shall be nominated in more than 2 races in a meeting. In case there are races on both Saturday and Sunday, a horse may be nominated in up to 3 races during that week-end, provided that the horse can only be declared for one or two races on the same day.
- C.4 Subject to D.3, a trainer who has nominated a horse must declare that horse if places are available unless (i) he submits to the Racing Stewards a veterinary certificate that the horse is unfit to race; or (ii) the Racing Stewards, on the trainer showing good cause, determine that the horse should be scratched.
- C.5 Where a horse is scratched pursuant to C.4 (i), the trainer may not nominate that horse to run at (i) the next race meeting immediately following the race meeting in which it was scratched unless the trainer (a) obtains the special authorization of the Racing Stewards, and (b) submits a veterinary clearance to the reasonable satisfaction of the Racing Stewards; or (ii) at any subsequent race meeting unless the trainer submits a veterinary clearance to the reasonable satisfaction of the Racing Stewards.
- C.6 A horse which has been nominated by a trainer must exercise at the track in Port Louis (i) for a race meeting scheduled on a Saturday, on the preceding Thursday; and (ii) for a race meeting scheduled on a Sunday, on the preceding Friday. A decision of the Racing Stewards that a horse exercised at the track in Port Louis at the material time shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal.
- C.7 Nominations may be re-opened if there are 8 or fewer horses in the aggregate nominated by fewer than 4 trainers. In case the nominations are re-opened for a race, each trainer (or his assistant) will be informed by email or by SMS or by other electronic communication and will be allowed at least 90 minutes (or such longer period as shall be deemed reasonable) to make additional nominations for that race; in addition, with respect to horses which were nominated for that race but which did not use the full number of nominations allowed under C.3, trainers will be allowed to make additional nominations for such horses in accordance with C.3 within their discretion. Nominations for a race may only be cancelled if there will be insufficient runners to run the race in accordance with the minimum number of runners prescribed by the GRA.
- C.8 A trainer must submit to the racing department on the appropriate form (i) the code of colours of the owners of the nominated horses; (ii) a complete notification of gear changes; and (iii) any application for permission pursuant to I.6 (unruly horses), no later than noon on the Wednesday preceding a race meeting.
- C.10 The Racing Stewards may refuse a trainer's nomination that does not comply with this Section C unless the trainer can show good cause.
- C.11 The barrier draws are conducted after declarations, except if otherwise notified by the Racing Stewards.

D. DECLARATIONS

- D.1 A trainer must declare a horse no later than 8:00 am on (i) the Thursday immediately preceding a race meeting scheduled on a Saturday or on a Saturday/Sunday weekend combination; or (ii) the Friday immediately preceding a race meeting scheduled on a Sunday, by submitting a duly completed declaration form (together with any trump card) in the designated box or in such other manner (including electronic mail) as MTCSL may designate from time to time.
- D.2 Where a horse has been nominated in more than 1 race, the trainer must state in the declaration form his order of priority for the races where he wishes his horse to start. If a rider is declared on

more than 1 horse in the same race, his earlier engagement must prevail unless the trainers involved agree otherwise.

- D.3 A trainer who has nominated 2 or more horses in a race must (a) if there are fewer than 8 nominations in the aggregate in that race, declare 2 horses; or (b) if there are 8 or more nominations in the aggregate in that race, declare at least 1 horse but not more than 2 horses.
- D.4 The Racing Stewards may refuse a trainer's declaration that does not comply with D.1 and D.2 unless the trainer can show good cause.
- D.5 Declarations shall be processed in a room designated by the Racing Stewards. Trainers or their representatives may not be present in this designated room while the declarations are processed.
- D.6 All declared horses shall be listed in order of merit rating, with a horse with a higher merit rating having, and, subject to D.9 to D.15, priority over a horse with a lower merit rating.
- D.7 Subject to D.12, the field in any race shall be determined in accordance with the following criteria, namely (i) the merit rating of declared horses; and (ii) the 1 runner per trainer principle.
- D.8 Whenever the number of trainers, who have declared at least 1 horse, is equal to or less than the number of places available in the field, each trainer shall be entitled to have at least 1 runner.
- D.9 Any remaining places in the field shall be filled in accordance with the criterion set out in D.7(i) above provided that no trainer who has declared more than 2 runners shall be entitled to a third runner unless all horses declared by trainers who have declared a second runner shall have been accepted, including for a place as an emergency acceptor.
- D.10 For the purpose of determining priority in respect of available places in the field, where a trainer has declared more than 1 horse, his declared horse with the highest merit rating shall be deemed to be his first choice and his declared horses with a lower merit rating shall be deemed, in descending order of merit rating, to be his second and consecutive choices.
- D.11 A trainer may declare a horse that is not the highest merit rated of his nominations to fill an available place in the field. If he does so, his declared horses with a higher merit rating forfeit their priority.
- D.12 The following horses shall have priority in the following order: (i) a horse which is declared to run its first race in Mauritius (provided that the new horse shall lose this priority where the horse was nominated but not declared previously); (ii) a last start winner; (iii) a horse in respect of which a trainer has, subject to D.13, used a trump card; and (iv) subject to D.14, a horse that was balloted out when last declared provided that its trainer did not have any runner (excluding an emergency acceptor which does not participate) in the race in the previous meeting in which it was declared (a 'Qualifying Race'). Such priorities shall apply only to horses nominated within their rating band and during the current season.
- D.13 No trainer shall use a trump card in respect of a declared horse (i) in a Group race or in a 3-year-old or 4-year-old championship race; (ii) that has not been nominated within its rating band during the current season; or (iii) where that horse is not the only horse declared by its trainer in the race in which the trainer proposes to use the trump card.
- D.14 The MTCSL shall, within one day of declarations being completed, publish on its website the names of all horses which have acquired priority pursuant to D.12(iv) on that day. In case a trainer disagrees that any horse has acquired, or failed to acquire, priority as per the list published, the trainer shall forthwith notify the Racing Stewards who shall enquire and, if required, amend the list. A horse forfeits any priority it acquires pursuant to D.12(iv) if it is not declared in a race on the race day or during a week-end (as applicable) in which it is first nominated following a Qualifying Race.

- D.15 Whenever 2 or more declared horses have the same merit rating and only one place is available in the field, including a place as emergency acceptor, the horse which has the lower barrier position shall have priority.
- D.16 Trainers are allowed two trump cards. One trump card can be used until Meeting 18 inclusively and the other from Meeting 19 to the last Meeting of the season, excluding the International Jockeys' Week-End (if any).
- D.17 A race shall be cancelled if there are insufficient runners prescribed by the GRA Directions. Where a race is cancelled, another race may be split into 2 divisions. The MTCSL may not reduce the prize money payable in respect of the winner and placed horses in a race that is run with fewer than 6 horses in the aggregate. Trainers will be informed of any decision taken pursuant to this direction.
- D.18 In the event that one race is cancelled at the stage of declarations due to insufficient number of runners in accordance with the GRA Directions or in the event that the MTCSL is authorised to organise an additional race after the publication of the nominations, the Racing Stewards may (but shall not be obligated to) split a race into two separate races, if the number of horses declared allow for such a split so that both races have the minimum number of runners prescribed by the GRA Runners. Subject to these Directions, the Racing Stewards shall, in their sole discretion, determine how such a split is effected.

Procedures for the splitting of races are followed as such: -

- a) The conditions of each division of the split race remains the same: -
 - (i) Prize monies remain unchanged for both divisions of the race.
 - (ii) Distances will be unaffected and remain the same for both divisions.
 - (iii) The Benchmark will remain unchanged for both divisions
 - b) With regards to the race to be split on the official list of entries, horses allotted with odd numbers will make up the first division followed by horses allotted with even numbers making up the 2nd division;
 - c) In the event that a trainer has two horses in one division and none in the other, after the split, a ballot will take place to determine which one of the runners will be moved to the alternate division;
 - d) The respective Trainer will be notified and if able, may attend the balloting procedure; and
 - e) In the event than one division has 2 or more runners than another division, a ballot will take place to move one or more runners from the division which has more runners to the division which has fewer runners so that both divisions have the same number of runners (or there is a difference of only 1 runner between the divisions. While making this ballot, the Racing Stewards shall consider the principles in paragraph (c) above so that a trainer does not have 2 or more runners moved to one division and is left with no runner in the other division.
- D.19 All runners shall be presented to be weighed at such day and time to be fixed by the Security Official. The weight of all runners shall be made public on the same day.
- D.20 All Group 1 and Classic races shall be run at weight-for-age.

E. OWNERS

- E.1 Only registered owners shall be entitled to have their names printed in the Race Card and be eligible to have access to the paddock and/or the race track.
- E.2 An honorary owner may be designated provided that trainers comply with the applicable rules. No person shall be an honorary member unless he is (i) a next-of-kin of an owner; or (ii) a celebrity visiting the MTCSL and approved by the Administrators.
- E.3 Any owner or honorary owner must be over 18 years old.

- E.4 An owner and/or his spouse may engage no more than two trainers/stables in aggregate to train their horse/s at any one time.

F. RACING EQUIPMENT

- F.1 Earplugs that have been declared and printed on the Race Card may not be removed during the race.
- F.2 Depending on the weather and the condition of the race track, the Racing Stewards may authorize or request a trainer to remove or apply pacifiers to his horse.
- F.3 A horse that has not raced with blinkers abroad shall not race with that equipment for the first time in Mauritius unless it has undergone a test at the starting stalls to the reasonable satisfaction of the Racing Stewards.

G. JOCKEYS

- G.1 A jockey who is a non-citizen of Mauritius shall not be authorized to ride at track work and/or in races unless he is in possession of (i) a valid work permit to take up employment with a trainer; and (ii) a valid residence permit.
- G.2 Every rider must ride at track work for a minimum of 4 days a week. A trainer may apply to the Racing Stewards for authorization for a jockey or apprentice or track rider, to ride his horse at track work in Port-Louis or Floréal.
- G.3 Riders licensed by the MTCSL must inform the Racing Stewards if they wish to leave Mauritius to take up employment abroad.

H. TRANSFER OF HORSES

- H.1 No owner shall, during the current season, enter into a racehorse owners' agreement with more than 2 trainers in relation to 1 horse.
- H.2 For the purposes of the Owner Billing and Registration Department, a transfer will be deemed to become effective on the first day of the month immediately following the Effective Date (as defined in A.2).
- H.3 Pending a transfer, a trainer must keep the horse on light training and feed it accordingly.
- H.4 A horse which has been nominated in a race before MTCSL has approved its transfer to another trainer shall participate in that race under the name and colours of the transferring owner unless the trainer who made the nomination decides to scratch the horse and the scratching is not prohibited under these Directions.

I. RACE DAYS

- I.1 Access to the centre of the paddock, from the time that the horses are saddled to that time that they leave the paddock, is restricted to current officials of MTCSL, trainers, assistant trainers, jockeys, grooms and a maximum of 8 owners (whose names are on the race card) of the horses participating in the race.
- I.2 Access to the weighing room is restricted to trainers, riders and officials of MTCSL. However, an assistant trainer may have access to the weighing room if he is replacing his trainer or the stable has 2 or more horses entered in a race.

- I.3 If a trainer wishes to leave the premises after he has raced his last runner but before the last race, he must notify the Racing Stewards where he may be contacted in case of emergency.
- I.4 Subject to I.6, all runners must be present in the paddock as soon as ordered by the Clerk of the Course.
- I.5 Subject to I.6, horses must be saddled in the paddock area.
- I.6 The Paddock Supervisor may permit unruly horses to come to the paddock later or to proceed immediately to the race track and/or to be saddled elsewhere than in the paddock area. Trainers must apply for permission by submitting an appropriate form in accordance with C.9.
- I.7 When the winner returns after a race, only the trainer, the assistant trainer, the head-groom of the stable, the groom of the winner and the owners whose names appear on the official race card for that meeting are allowed on the track.
- I.8 Notwithstanding I.7 above, a maximum of 8 owners are permitted to lead in the winner.

J. RACE TACTICS

- J.1 A trainer who has entered 2 or more horses in a race, must set out each rider's riding instructions in writing on the appropriate form which must be duly signed by the trainer and all the relevant jockeys and submitted in a sealed envelope to the Clerk of the Course before the trainer saddles his horses. The envelope shall not in any circumstances be opened prior to the running of the race. The envelope may be opened by the Racing Stewards in the presence of the trainer and at least one of the jockeys in case required for an enquiry or any other lawful purpose.
- J.2 In case the Racing Stewards have any query with respect to the race tactics to be adopted by any other runner, the Racing Stewards may require a trainer and the relevant jockey to sign the instructions and place same in a sealed envelope, to be dealt with in the same manner as set out in J.1.

K. GROOMS

- K.1 No groom shall be transferred from one stable to another before the start of the current season without the approval of the Chief Executive Officer. No transfer request shall be entertained after that date.
- K.2 Trainers must give to grooms at least 2 days' notice of the transfer of horses under their custody from the Floréal Training Centre to the race track in Port Louis for morning track work. The officer in charge at the Floréal Training Centre must be advised, by the preceding Friday afternoon, of any proposed movement of horses on a Sunday morning.
- K.3 As from the time that a horse has been nominated, it must remain in the custody of the same groom until after it has raced and, if required, been sampled. If a change of groom is necessary after a horse has been nominated, the locks of the door of the box of that horse must be replaced simultaneously with the handing over to the relieving groom. The register kept by the Security Officer must be signed in the latter's presence by both grooms.
- K.4 The form witnessing a change of grooms at the Floréal Training Centre must be signed by both grooms, in the presence of the officer in charge and delivered to the Security Officer in Port Louis at latest by the end of each week.
- K.5 Each trainer must issue to his grooms a proper stable uniform on race-days unless sponsored T-shirts are provided.

- K.6 Grooms must ensure that their horses are duly examined after a race by MTCSL's Veterinary Surgeon and that their urine specimens are collected whenever required.
- K.7 Grooms must immediately report to their Trainer any abnormality, dysfunction or problem of whatever nature at or about the stable that may affect the security of any horse under his custody.

L. VETERINARY EXAMINATION

- L.1 After each race MTCSL's Veterinary Surgeon will trot a horse to ensure that it is not lame. If the need arises, the horse will be scoped. Blood and urine samples may also be taken at the request of the Racing Stewards.
- L.2 If requested by the Racing Stewards, MTCSL's Veterinary Surgeon may perform a more extensive examination, particularly of a horse that has performed poorly.
- L.3 For the purposes of hair sampling and doping control, the shaving and trimming of manes is restricted. A minimum 12cm of hair on the mane is required to be left in place when trimming.

In the event of any conflict, the GRA Act and/or the GRA Directions will take precedence over the MTCSL Directions for Racing.

Date: 17th March 2021