Chapter 260-20 WAC
ASSOCIATION GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

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WAC 260-20-005 General duty of a racing association. A racing association, its officers, directors, officials and employees will abide by and enforce the rules of racing and the orders of the commission and decisions of the executive secretary and stewards. A racing association may request an exemption from a requirement in this chapter to utilize new technology or innovative construction in the design of the racetrack facilities. The commission may grant an exemption if the commission determines that the racing association's proposal substantially satisfies the purpose of the requirement, and the exemption is in the best interests of horse racing.

WAC 260-20-010 Duty to maintain racetrack. Weather conditions permitting, the racing association must:
(1) Maintain their racetrack in a condition that is safe for the riders and horses; and
(2) Have implements available to maintain a uniform track.

WAC 260-20-012 Audio and visual equipment. (1) A racing association must provide and maintain a working communication system between the stewards' stand, race office, tote room, jockeys' quarters, paddock, test barn, starting gate, weigh-in scale, video camera locations, clockers' stand, track announcer, location of the aid vehicle and equine ambulance, and other locations and persons designated by the commission or designee.
(2) A racing association must have a public address system capable of clearly transmitting announcements to the patrons and to the stable area.
(3) If the commission does not provide photo finish service, a racing association is required to:
   (a) Provide two electronic photo finish devices with mirror image to photograph the finish of each race. The commission, or designee will approve the location and operation of the photo finish devices before their first use in a race.

(3/15/13)
(b) Promptly post a photograph or digital image of each photo finish for win, place or show in an area accessible to the public.
(c) Ensure the photo finish devices are calibrated before the first day of each race meet and at other times as required by the commission, or designee.
(d) Provide, when requested, and without cost, a print of a photo finish to the commission, or designee.

(4) A racing association must provide an electronic timing system that records the time of each race in at least fifths of a second. The association will maintain this system and all split time marker sensors in good working order.

(5) A racing association must provide a videotaping system approved by the commission, or designee. Cameras must be located to provide clear panoramic and head-on views of each race. Separate monitors, which simultaneously display the images received from each camera and are capable of simultaneously displaying a synchronized view of the recordings of each race for review, will be provided in the stewards' stand. The commission, or designee will approve the location and construction of video towers.

(a) One camera will videotape the prerace loading of all horses into the starting gate and will continue to videotape them until the starter dispatches the field.
(b) One camera will videotape the apparent winner of each race from the finish line until the horse has returned, the jockey has dismounted, and the equipment has been removed from the horse.
(c) The board of stewards may, at their discretion, direct the video camera operators to videotape the activities of any horses or persons handling horses prior to, during or following a race.

(6) Races run at a Class A or B track must be recorded by at least three video cameras. Races run at a Class C track must be recorded by at least two video cameras.

(7) A racing association must, upon request, provide to the commission, without cost, a copy of a videotape of a race.

(8) Videotapes recorded prior to, during and following each race will be maintained by the association for not less than six months after the end of the race meet, or such other period as is directed by the stewards, the commission, or designee.

(9) Following any race in which there is an inquiry or objection, the association will display to the public the videotaped replays of the incident in question, which were utilized by the stewards in making their decision.

WAC 260-20-013 Racetrack, rails and starting gate.
(1) The surface of a racetrack, including the cushion, subsurface and base, must be designed, constructed and maintained to provide for the safety of the riders and horses.
(2) Prior to the first race meet at an association racetrack, a licensed surveyor may be required to provide to the commission a certified report of the grade and measurement of the distances to be run. If required, the surveyor's report must be submitted to the commission for approval prior to the first race day of the meet.
(3) Distances to be run will be measured from the starting line at a distance three feet out from the inside rail.

WAC 260-20-015 Lighting.
(1) A racing association will provide lighting for the racetrack and the patron facilities to ensure the safety and security of the patrons, licensees and horses.
(2) A racing association will provide additional lighting in the stable area.
(3) If a racing association conducts racing at night, the association will maintain a backup lighting system that is sufficient to ensure the safety of race participants and patrons.

WAC 260-20-016 Barns.
(1) All racing associations will ensure that the barns are kept clean and in good repair. At Class A and B racing associations, each barn, including the receiving and test barns, must have a hot and cold water supply available, be well-ventilated, and have proper drainage.
(2) All racing associations will ensure that each horse is stabled in an individual box stall with minimum dimensions of ten by ten feet.
WAC 260-20-017  Test barn. (1) All racing associations must provide a test barn for taking specimens for testing. The test barn must be equipped with:
   (a) A walk ring that is large enough to accommodate four horses;
   (b) An approved amount of enclosed stalls that permit observation of the collection process and provide for the protection of collection personnel;
   (c) Facilities for the collection, identification and storage of samples;
   (d) A wash-rack that is large enough to accommodate an adequate number of horses at the same time;
   (e) Hot and cold running water at Class A and B racing associations.

   (2) A racing association will limit access to the test barn to persons authorized by the official veterinarian.

WAC 260-20-030  Fire prevention. (1) A racing association will develop and implement a program for fire prevention on association grounds. An association will instruct employees working on association grounds of the procedures for fire prevention. The racing association must retain inspection reports for three years and upon request make them available to the commission, or designee.

   (2) No person may:
      (a) Smoke in stalls, feed rooms, dormitory rooms, stable offices, or under shed rows;
      (b) Tamper with a fire protection, prevention or suppression system or device;
      (c) Burn open fires or oil and gas lamps in the stable area;
      (d) Leave unattended any electrical appliance that is plugged in to an electrical outlet;
      (e) Permit horses to come within reach of electrical outlets or cords;
      (f) Store flammable materials such as cleaning fluids or solvents in the stable area; or
      (g) Lock a stall that is occupied by a horse.

   (3) A racing association must post a notice in the stable area that lists the prohibitions outlined above.

WAC 260-20-040  Admission to grounds—Restricted areas. (1) A person may only be permitted to enter the restricted areas of the racing association grounds under the following conditions:

      (a) The person possesses a license or credentials issued by the commission.
      (b) The person possesses a pass issued by the association.
      (c) The person has been signed-in by a person licensed by the commission.

   (2) The restricted areas of a racing association will include, but not be limited to the stable area, and the jockey's quarters.

   (3) Children may be granted access to the stable areas as long as they are in the company of a parent or guardian who has a properly issued license, credential, or pass.

   (4) Persons escorted by a licensee must remain in the company of the licensee who signed them in.

   (5) At a Class C racing association, the stable areas will not be considered a restricted area, except that the racing association may limit access to this area.

   (6) Passes must be displayed while in a restricted area.

WAC 260-20-050  Passes. The racing association may issue passes to allow access to restricted areas of the grounds. Each pass must be numbered and kept in numerical order in the association's records. The commission may inspect these records at any time.

WAC 260-20-075  Firearms prohibited on association grounds. Firearms are not permitted on the grounds of any racing association, except by security personnel employed by the association and law enforcement officers. Any person who brings or possesses firearms on the grounds may be suspended and/or ejected from the grounds.

WAC 260-20-090  Association security. (1) A racing association conducting a race meet must maintain security controls over its grounds.

   (2) An association will prevent access to, and will remove or cause to be removed from its restricted areas any person who is unlicensed, or who has not been issued a visitor's pass or other identifying credential, or whose presence in such restricted area is unauthorized.

   (3) Class A or B racing associations must provide continuous security in the stable area during all times that horses are stabled on the grounds. An association will require any person entering the stable area to display a valid license or credential issued by the commission or a pass issued by the association.

   (4) Class A or B racing associations must keep a written record, on a form approved by the commission, of all horses admitted to or leaving the stable areas. For horses admitted to the stable areas the log must contain the date, time, names of horses, and barn or name of trainer they are being delivered to. For horses leaving the stable areas the log must contain the date, time, name of horses, and barn or name of trainer they are leaving from. A copy of the completed form(s) must be provided to the commission on a weekly basis. The original log is subject to inspection at any time by the commission.

   (5) All persons and businesses transporting horses on and off the grounds of a racing association are responsible to provide association security, and if applicable, the commission with the names of any horses delivered to or leaving the grounds and the trainer responsible.

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(6) Class A or B racing associations must keep a written record of all individuals admitted to the stable area between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 4:00 a.m. At a minimum the record shall contain the name of the person admitted, the person's license numbers and the time admitted.

(7) Class A or B racing associations must provide fencing around the stable area in a manner that is approved by the commission.

(8) Not later than twenty-four hours after an incident occurs requiring the attention of security personnel, the chief of security must deliver to commission security a written report describing the incident, which may be forwarded to the stewards for disciplinary action. The report must include the name of each individual involved in the incident and the circumstances of the incident.


WAC 260-20-160 Medical aid. (1) Racing associations must provide a vehicle properly equipped and staffed with two emergency medical technicians, one hour before post time until the last race is official, each day the track is open for racing.

(2) Class A or B racing associations must also provide a first-aid room equipped with at least two beds and other appropriate equipment.


WAC 260-20-165 Equine ambulance. (1) A racing association must provide an equine ambulance staffed by trained personnel on association grounds each day that the racetrack is open for racing or training. The ambulance must be properly ventilated and kept at an entrance to the racing strip when not in use. The ambulance must be a vehicle that restricts view of the injured horse and large enough to accommodate a horse in distress. The ambulance must be able to navigate on the racetrack during all weather conditions and transport a horse off the racing surface. The ambulance must be equipped with:

(a) Large, portable screens to shield a horse from public view;

(b) A system to facilitate loading an injured horse;

(c) Adequate means of loading a horse that is down;

(d) A rear door and a door on each side;

(e) A shielded area for the person who is attending to the horse; and

(f) An adequate area for the storage of water and veterinary drugs and equipment.

(2) A racing association may not conduct a race unless an equine ambulance or an official veterinarian approved substitute is available.

(3) The official veterinarian, its supplies and attendants and the operating procedures for the equine ambulance are subject to review and approval by the official veterinarian.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 67.16.020 and 67.16.040. WSR 07-11-115, § 260-20-165, filed 5/18/07, effective 6/18/07.]

WAC 260-20-180 Facilities for jockeys. Each racing association will provide facilities for the use of jockeys separate from the public areas.


WAC 260-20-190 Living quarters for stable employees. Class A and B racing associations will provide sanitary living quarters for grooms and other stable employees.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 67.16.020 and 67.16.040. WSR 07-11-115, § 260-20-190, filed 5/18/07, effective 6/18/07; Rules of racing, § 332, filed 4/21/61.]

WAC 260-20-210 Manure and refuse disposal. Each racing association will provide an adequate area for the placement of manure removed from the stalls. All manure must be removed from the stable area in a timely manner.


WAC 260-20-220 Standard color designations for distance poles. A racing association must provide starting point markers and distance poles in a size and position that is clearly seen from the stewards’ stand. The starting point markers and distance poles must be marked as follows:

1/4 Poles Red and White Horizontal Stripes
1/8 Poles Green and White Horizontal Stripes
1/16 Poles Black and White Horizontal Stripes