



Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

News of the Day

September 2016

Dear Member,

2016 has been a year of dramatic changes to our industry and in the Racing Law that have impacted not only the current year but also our planning with Northville Downs for 2017. The mid-year switch to a site specific funding model, the anticipated implementation of ADW (Advanced Deposit Wagering) and the disposition of the escrowed funds from the 2014 Hazel Park meet are important components in trying assemble the best and most lucrative racing program for next year and beyond. Northville Downs is currently in the process of applying for race dates in 2017 and please do not be alarmed if the initial application is for less dates (50-54 days) than were raced in 2016 (60), as ND with support of the MHHA is taking a conservative approach to applying for dates based on money we fully believe will be available to race for. Both MHHA and ND believe that we will ultimately race for more days in 2017 than we did in 2016 but that is based on revenue sources from ADW that are not yet fully implemented. The 2017 Northville Downs meet is scheduled to begin in early March and continue through mid-June with a break until early September and racing through mid-December. We reviewed several race meet scenarios with ND and believe a break in the summer months provides the best opportunity to race at or more than the dates raced in 2016. Horsemen will not be paying starting fees in 2017.

After an ongoing series of negotiations with Hazel Park, MHHA was informed recently that as a result of the revenue uncertainty I outlined above, Hazel Park would not be applying for harness dates in 2017.

The Colt Stakes and Ag Equine funded mini-series races continue to be well received and well supported by Michigan horsemen. MHHA is committed to provide racing opportunities that will support and encourage breeding in Michigan and a Michigan sired colt stakes program that will provide value to Michigan sired horses and racing opportunities for these horses for years to come.

As the year winds to a close, I encourage all of you to become more active in your association via a board position, committee chair, committee position or volunteer. Please contact the MHHA office at 517-349-2920.

Thomas Barrett
MHHA President

Take the Opportunity to be an Active Member of the MHHA Board of Directors

Petitions due by November 1, 2016. Four positions are available.

The By-Laws of the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association specify the following:

- Candidates shall file a written petition signed by at least fifteen (15) voting members of the candidate's category via e-mail to yal@julianvail.com by November 1 of the year prior to the election. (It is suggested that more than 15 signatures are submitted to ensure that the filing requirement is met).
- A voting member must be an active or life member, of the candidate's category, who is on the MHHA membership rolls as of September 30, 2016.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please download the [Board of Directors Nomination Form](#)

[Michigan Horse Racing Law](#)

To find answers to frequently answered questions with the Michigan Horse Racing Law, please visit <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/> and use the Basic MCL Search to search for Horse Racing. This will take you to the complete law listed by section. As always, if you have any questions call the MHHA office at 517-349-2920.

Thank You to Our 2016 Sire Stake Sponsors Friday, September 30, 2016

Ryan Morefield	Blanket
Linn & Tracie Hathaway	Blanket
Jessica Roegner & Don Sherman	Blanket
Kristie Hale	Blanket
Ryan VerHage	Blanket
Ryan VerHage	Blanket
Libby Myers	Blanket
Larry & Sue Smith	Blanket
Crystal Serra & Chris Terrell	Flower Sponsor
Edward & Cheryl Sayfie	Flower Sponsor
Ronnie Wrenn	Whips

Your contribution to the industry is recognized and appreciated.

2016 Back to School FINALS for MI Sired, Bred or Owned at Northville Downs

CONDITION	FINAL	PURSES
Trot NW \$1,500 L4, or \$300 PS in 2016	9/2	\$4,000
Pace NW \$1,500 L4, or	9/3	\$4,000

\$300 PS in 2016

Trot NW \$1750 L4, or \$400 PS in 2016 AE: NW 3PM or \$35,000 life.	9/9	\$7,000
Pace NW \$1,750 L4, or \$400 PS in 2016 AE: NW 3PM or \$35,000 life.	9/10	\$7,000
Trot NW \$2,400 L4, or \$600 PS in 2016 AE: NW 4PM or \$50,000 life	9/16	\$8,000
Trot-Maidens AE: 2&3 NW \$7,500 Life	9/16	\$7,000
Pace NW \$2,400 L4, or \$600 PS in 2016 AE: NW 4PM or \$50,000 life	9/17	\$8,000
Pace-Maidens AE: 2&3 NW \$7,500 Life	9/17	\$7,000
Trot WO \$2,500 L4 or NW \$1,000 PS in 2016	9/23	\$14,000
Pace WO \$2,500 L4 or NW \$1,000 PS in 2016	9/24	\$14,000
Total Purses		\$80,000

MHHA Finals * 235 N Pine St, Lansing, MI 48933 * (517) 349-2920

2016 Back to School Finals for MI Sired, Bred or Owned at Northville Downs Conditions

1. Eligibility: USTA registered horses that are Michigan Sired, Michigan Bred or Michigan owned. Those qualifying as Michigan owned only must have been Michigan owned as of July 1, 2016 to be eligible to these races.
2. All finals will be contested at Northville Downs on the dates indicated. There will be no more than two trailers in any final. Regular starting fees apply to the Finals.
4. If fewer than 8 horses enter to any race, ND/ MHHA reserves the right to reconfigure or cancel that Final. Separate filly divisions may be utilized if entries warrant. Any changes to the series must be approved by ND/MHHA.
5. All participating owners and trainers must be members of the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association at the time of entry or pay a \$50 insurance, processing and administrative fee. The one-time \$50 insurance, processing and administrative fee covers the entire series.
6. All declarations for Finals events will be taken by the Northville Downs race office in accordance with Northville Downs' entry schedule and requirements as designated on the Northville Downs condition sheet. All horses must have a good charted line within 45 days of the event and meet the qualifying standards of Northville Downs and the stewards before being drawn in to race. Events may be raced off the live card at the discretion of Northville Downs.
7. All 2016 Michigan Finals events will be raced in one heat and at a distance of one mile. If more than 10 declare to start in any Final, Northville Downs will draw the 9 participants by random draw or may adopt any of the methods of dividing the race participants allowed in the current rules and regulations. Fillies may draw inside at the discretion of the race secretary.

8. The Michigan Finals is dependent on funding from the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. If events are cancelled, or purses are reduced, because the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development is unable to provide the anticipated funding for Final events, neither Northville Downs nor the MHHA shall not be held responsible.

9. All horses must have proof of a negative Coggins test within the calendar year and posted on eligibilities. Pari-mutuel race tracks require a negative EHV test within six months of the event and other vaccinations may be required.

10. All participants are required to know and abide by the rules of the United States Trotting Association and the Michigan Gaming Control Board. A declaration to the 2016 Michigan Finals is an agreement to the above terms and conditions. Rules of Northville Downs, the Michigan Gaming Control Board, and the United States Trotting Association shall govern unless otherwise specified in these conditions.

Participants will enter to race at ND under the current ND draw schedule. The starting fee will also be the same as the current rate of 1.00%

David Lake crosses the finish line for his 2000th win

Congratulations to David Lake for this milestone he has accomplished in his career.
MHHA recognizes your success.

Do you want to nominate a member for the Member Spotlight?

Please contact the MHHA office at 517-349-2920

The MHHA website is new and user friendly. Please go to mhha.com for official information for Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association. If you have ideas or suggestions for the website, please contact the MHHA office at 517-349-2920.

MHHA

235 North Pine St. ▪ Lansing, MI 48933 ▪ 517.349.2920 ▪ Fax: 517.372.1501 ▪ www.MHHA.com

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