

SHENANDOAH DOWNS

An overview of racing at Shenandoah Downs in 2023.

The deadline for submitting racing applications for the Spring Meet was Friday March 3, 2023. A completed Release of Liability must be submitted along with the application.

All Workmen's Compensation Insurance needs must be completed with the Virginia Racing Commission as well as having a current USTA membership and Virginia license.

The State of Virginia REQUIRES a copy of each horse's Coggins test to be on file dated within the last 12 months and with a readable ACCESSION Number. A USTA printout is not acceptable. A verified herpes vaccination in the last 180 days is required as well as a health certificate dated in the last 30 days. Any entry without the proper paperwork will be denied and horses may be asked to leave the grounds.

Spring Racing Dates: April 1 – May 14

Saturdays and Sunday at 1 p.m.

Draw Schedule

The box for both race days will close on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Saturday draw will be posted on Wednesday and scratch time will be Thursday by 9:30 a.m.

Sunday draw will be posted on Thursday and scratch time will be Friday by 9:30 a.m.

Qualifiers will be held on Saturdays before warm-ups for the race card. The exact start time of qualifiers will be determined by the race card and any off-card races that may need to be held.

The box for Qualifiers will close on Thursday at 10 a.m.

Racing Applications:

- An application to race at Shenandoah Downs, listing all the horses you wish to race during the meet must be submitted to the Virginia Harness Horsemen's Association for approval. Applications will then be filed in the race office. Late applications may be approved but may not be processed in time for the draw. The trainer is solely responsible for all paperwork.

- Horsemen may call the race office starting Monday, March 20, 2023, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- No owner shall have more than 2 trainers entering horses in their name for overnight events.
- Shenandoah Downs reserves the right to refuse stall space or deny access to any individual should the Host Association deem it necessary.
- Horses not ready to drop in the box are not allowed on the roster or on the grounds. All horses on the grounds MUST BE entered into the box at Shenandoah Downs within reasonable time limits. There will be no 2 year olds in training or horses on stall rest.
- Shenandoah Downs and its affiliates will not be liable for loss, injury or damage sustained to owners, trainers, drivers or horses participating in activities on the premises.
- In the event of a dispute involving any written conditions, or in the event of any special unforeseen occurrences not covered in the conditions, the decision of the Race Secretary will be final.

Qualifying and Training Information:

- Training days for ship-ins are Monday-Thursday ONLY. Any stall used MUST be cleaned and in perfect working order for race day.
- Schoolers are allowed on Qualifying days but MUST be approved by the race office. Schoolers must be entered at the same time the box closes for qualifiers. You can either call or make a note on your qualifier entry. We will make every effort to accommodate your request, but our stall situation may not allow for it.
- The track is open from 5 a.m. to noon.
- There is absolutely NO TOWING of horses.
- Helmets must be worn at-all-times while on the track.
- Horses shipping in to train MUST have their paperwork on file in the office.
- Qualifying times are as follows:
 - 2 YO PACE 2:11 TROT 2:13

- 3 YO PACE 2:06 TROT 2:08
 - AGED PACE 2:04 TROT 2:06
 - No allowances will be made other than track condition on the charted lines.
- Prior to the Spring meet there will be one qualifying day scheduled 7 days prior to the first race day. There will be no qualifying days before the Fall meet as we chart every day at the Shenandoah County Fair races prior to our opening.
 - Horses will go on the Steward's List by the Judge if:
 - They fail to go in qualifying time on a fast track.
 - They are scratched off a qualifier.
 - They make breaks in 2 consecutive starts on a fast track.
 - They fail to finish the race.
 - They make a break off a qualifying race on a fast track.
 - The Judge declares poor performance.
 - For sickness or lameness.
 - Horses racing must have a clean charted line within 45 days. Virginia rule is race-date to race date. This pertains to all VA bred races as well.

Claiming Races:

- The minimum claiming price is \$4000. Horses entering claimers and winning may not race in the class in consecutive starts unless it fits another condition on the event.
- If a horse is scratched from a claiming race at any track, they must enter the next start at the same claiming price or lower.
- Per the Virginia Racing Commission rules, a claimed horse must race at Shenandoah Downs for at least 30 days or until the end of the meet unless released by the Race Secretary AND approved by the Judge.
- All claims must be made with the bookkeeper. The proper form must be filled out and the proper documentation presented. The funds must be presented in the form of cash or cashier's check made out to the Virginia Equine Alliance. The funds must reflect the 5.3% Virginia sales tax in addition to the claiming price. An additional \$40 in funds must be present at the time of claim for transfer at the USTA. This can be cash or personal check made out to the USTA.
- Claims must be completed no later than 15 minutes prior to the post time of said race.

General Conditions:

- Horses racing must have a clean charted line within 45 days. Virginia rule is race-date to race date. This pertains to all VA bred races as well.
- ALL CLASSES ARE VIRGINIA PREFERRED REGARDLESS OF DATE.
- The current preference system in Virginia is:
 - VA owned/bred/trained,
 - Horses stabled on the grounds,
 - Past Participation at Shenandoah Downs,
 - Past participation at Colonial Downs or Shenandoah County Fair followed by
 - New applicants.
- Online entry via the USTA system is preferred. There are entry blanks in the race office for your use. Please write neatly. If calling in your entries, please use the race office number. Please have good service and speak clearly. Text, messenger or email entries are not accepted.
- When entering, start with your preferred class and list alternate events in order. If not getting in, the horse will be moved to the alternative events listed, in order, if possible. Also... if you do not want the horse moved, state that. It is not the job of the Race Secretary to read your mind.
- A horse entered into a class to which it is not eligible WILL BE moved to the appropriate class or denied all together at the discretion of the Race Secretary.
- The Race Secretary reserves the right to cancel, holdover, combine and/or handicap in a competitive fashion and is an accepted condition upon entering your horses.
- Horses scratched from outside posts seven and/or eight (other than a management error or judges call) will be assigned the outside post again when entered the next time.
- Helmets must be worn at all times while on the track, including while jogging. Safety vests must be worn on race days, even when warming up.
- ALL STALLS ARE ASSIGNED. If there is someone in your stall upon arrival, contact the race office immediately.

Rules of Racing:

- Shenandoah Downs is governed by Virginia Racing Commission rules.
- All owners, trainers, drivers and grooms must be licensed by the VRC and O, T, D must have current USTA licenses.
- It is the trainer's responsibility to check with the judges prior to scratch time.
- All horses must race from the paddock.
- Horses must wear pads to warm up and drivers need full colors.
- Horses shall parade in order, five lengths apart. If you are unable to parade your own horse, make arrangements with another driver to do so and notify the Judges.
- After the post parade, any adjustment of harness or other equipment must be made under the supervision of the Paddock Judge. If there is broken equipment during a race, report it to the Paddock Judge after the race.
- Objections must be lodged with the Starting Judge after the race and before dismounting. You must indicate against whom the objection is lodged, where the incident occurred and the nature of the violation. Then return to the paddock and wait to talk to the Judge via the Paddock Judge.
- Horses not finishing a race will be put on the List unless excused due to legitimate broken equipment (prior to making a break and not faulty) or by interference.
- Horses in to go that are put on the List for performance will be scratched.
- Any horse that falls on the track will be scratched. If a horse falls in the paddock, the horse must be inspected by the State Veterinarian before continuing.
- Drivers shall:
 - keep both feet in the stirrups and a line in each hand at all times during a race except in the event of an accident or when pulling the plugs,
 - always have control of their horses,
 - adjust handholds to be taut with elbows in front of the chest,

- carry a whip not exceeding 4 feet plus a snapper not longer than 6 inches and
 - use the whip to hit the wheel disc or shaft so long as it does not interfere with another horse or driver.
- Drivers shall not
 - use the whip in any brutal, excessive or indiscriminate way,
 - cause visible injury to a horse,
 - whip a horse after the race or
 - whip below the shaft
- Qualifying drivers must wear full colors to receive full credit for their drives.
- No dogs, cats or children in strollers are allowed in the paddock.

Lasix Guidelines:

- Race Lasix must be administered by the on-track vet by IV only.
- The Lasix guideline for administration is 3-4 hours.
- No adjunct bleeder medication is permitted.

Any rule or circumstances that have not been addressed by the above rules and regulations will be covered under the auspices of the host association, the USTA or the VRC.