



Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, Inc. Agenda

September 7, 2021 – 2:00pm EST

Attended:

Miriam Anver	Lucy Goelet	Hill Parker
Mark Beecher	Ricky Hendriks	Todd Wyatt
Fenneka Bentley	Marsha Hewitt	Leslie Young
Sean Clancy	Arch Kingsley	Donnie Yovanovich
Gail Clark	Wendy Kingsley	
Joe Davies	Jeff Lehew	

Not Present: Alex Leventhal, Sanna Neilson

- I. **Approve July Minutes** Kimberly Kapacziewski
There were no corrections and the minutes were approved as emailed to Board.

- II. **Committee Reports**
Treasurers Report Wendy Kingsley
Checking \$8,326.52
Savings \$14,598.29

Race Conditions Committee Sean Clancy
Fall Condition book is out. Sean expressed concern over an updated horse inventory list not being used to write the Fall Conditions. Horsemen need to reach out and let Bill Gallo know what horses you have in work.

The group agreed that an updated rider and horse inventory list is important.

- III. **President's Report** Todd Wyatt

A. Colonial Entry Fees
At the August NSA meeting, Todd addressed the changes to purse distribution

and entry fees at Colonial Downs, which ultimately cost the owners more money in entry fees.

There was a discussion with the NSA about this and the NSA agreed to redistribute those entry fees, following its standard distribution.

B. EasyFix Fence

Al Griffin spoke to the NSA board about the fence. The additional pad has arrived from Europe and has been here for a few weeks. Jack Fisher has been tinkering with the pad and the fence. Todd Wyatt thinks this is something that people will be interested to see. The hope is that this Fall, we will get some more schooling opportunities and possibly see the EasyFix fences in the Spring.

The group discussed the EasyFix fences.

IV. Old Business

Attrition rate at Colonial Downs, there seemed to be more injuries than usual. Donnie Yovanovich who serves on the Safety Committee, confirmed that the committee is inquiring about this. They are going to talk about that in their next meeting.

Arch Kingsley's concern with all of the injuries at Colonial Downs – "As much as there is plenty of blame to go around, we as a community need to be prepared to look at our own horse management and make sure that this is adequate before we cast any concerns on our host race track."

Fenneka Bentley asked the group about the vet list. It has been six weeks since her horse had an incident and she has not been notified by anyone about a vet's list.

The question came up – Is this an NSA or Colonial Downs situation? Who is the sanctioning body at this meet?

V. New Business

Kimberly Kapacziewski

A. Ratings

Arch Kingsley

Arch Kingsley talked about one of his horses that was moved to a higher ratings category. He didn't think this was the best option for his horse and found that there was no "due process" for there to be a discussion between the Ratings Committee and the horsemen. Arch made the suggestion that there should be some sort of formal protocol to appeal a rating.

Ricky Hendriks explained that he has not had any trouble working with Bill Gallo to have input on a horses' rating. Ricky said that you call Bill Gallo with the concern, he reaches out to the committee, they discuss and Bill Gallo gets back to the horsemen with an answer.

Leslie Young has not had this same experience. She has called Bill Gallo several times with no success. She also mentioned that in Europe, you are allowed to call and discuss the ratings.

Hill Parker suggested that SOTA work with the Ratings Committee to get the process documented in writing to provide transparency for everyone in the sport.

Sean Clancy does not support the idea that the horsemen talk to the handicappers. Sean discussed how creative conditions could open opportunities for the horses that are restricted to the ratings categories.

Arch Kingsley's suggestion: a zoom call with trainer and ratings committee or someone that is lodging the appeal – there could be a timed digital appeal one minute or one minute thirty seconds.

Further suggestions:

There needs to be a better process to serve the customer.

The process needs to be more transparent and a formal appeal could be helpful.

If you want to make a formal appeal, put a price on it.

Todd Wyatt will circle back to Arch Kingsley to come up with some talking points to discuss with the NSA.

B. Point-to-Point Funding

Donnie Yovanovich discussed the importance of point-to-point's and highlighted that they are financially struggling. He has sent a letter asking for monetary contributions but has received little response.

VI. Adjourn – 3:26pm