

# **CKG BILLINGS**

## **HARNES DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **XXXVI**

#### **ELIGIBILITY of DRIVERS**

1. Each participant must be a member in good standing of the **DMHDA**.
2. Each participating driver must qualify under the definition of “Non-Professional Driver”.
3. Each participating driver must 16 years of age or older at time of entry.
4. Each participating driver must be licensed as a “Driver” by the USTA or Standardbred Canada and by the State or Provincial racing commissions where required. All drivers must be approved by the Billings Racing Committee and any driver may be asked to complete a series of satisfactory drives should safety concerns arise.
5. The minimum USTA license accepted is a Q/F. The minimum Canadian license accepted is a D - amateur.
6. Local racetracks have the sole discretion of the minimum driver license level allowed to race at their facility.

A “Non-Professional Driver” is one who has not accepted any valuable consideration by way of or in lieu of compensation or services as a driver from a third party since December 31, 2005 (10 years) and who had less than 100 wins driving third party owned horses as a driver accepting compensation as a third party.

**NOTE: ONLY DRIVERS CAN BE NOMINATED; HORSES CANNOT BE NOMINATED TO THE SERIES.**

## ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS for HORSES

**TROTTERS (except at selected “Local Conditions” venues) who meet any of the following conditions:**

1. 3 years old and up in the current year that are non-winners of \$6,001\*\* in last 5 starts counting only purses greater than \$1,100 and are non-winners of \$1,500 per start, with a minimum of 8 starts, in the current calendar year. If said horse does not have 8 starts in the current calendar year, the average of the previous year plus the current year will be used as long as that totals 8 starts.
2. Entered with a basic claiming price of \$10,000 or \$15,000. If the venue has no provision for claiming races, then the horse must have started for \$15,000 or less in its previous start.
3. If more than one division is necessary, races will be seeded by the Billings Chancellor. Seeding is done by money earned last 5 starts and claiming price. If there is only enough for one division the \$10,000 claimers will draw inside the \$15,000 claimers and the entire race may be handicapped. If there are enough horses for more than one division, the \$15,000 claimers will be put in the upper division and the \$10,000 claimers will not be in the upper division. All the other horses will then be seeded by money earned last 5 starts. Local race secretaries have **FINAL** discretion on all races at their tracks. If entries naturally seed into the same division but must be separated, one may be moved up and assigned a post position. If two horses with a common trainer and/or owner seed into the top division and must be separated due to programming, one horse and driver will be rejected unless the host track permits an entry.

4. All horses entered in each leg (except certain venues outlined in Section B) are eligible for the \$20,000 Billings Purchase Option (BPO).

- \* A “start” is a race in which prize or purse – money or otherwise – is awarded.
- \*\* All funds denominated in US Dollar equivalents.

Horses must meet qualifying standards of the host racetrack to be eligible to declare into a leg. **IF** a host track has no published standards and permits, the qualifications shall be: horses that have been qualified and had a satisfactory race line within 45 days prior to the declaration date for a start in the Billings and meet one of the following qualifying standards on a fast track:

2:06 on a half mile track   2:04 on a five eighths track   2:02 on a mile track

### **CONDITIONS of the SERIES**

- A. The Billings series is to be raced as three separate regional competitions – The Eastern Region will have **TWO** Series. The Mid-West Region and the Travel Series will have **One** Series each. If paid by April 15th, 2017, the required entry fee for Regular Membership (age 21 and up) for the 2015 Billings series is \$200 and entitles members eligibility to all races. Each race will have a \$50 Entry Fee unless otherwise indicated. Each venue has the final say on who can race at their facility and can reject any entry. The entry fee for Student Membership (15-21 years of age) and with proof of enrollment at a school, is \$50 and entitles the member to race in all events that will allow them to compete. A Patron Membership entitles member to race in no more than 2 Billings Events for \$50.00. All funds are in US Dollars.
- B. Every horse entered in a Billings event except Canada races, The Hambletonian Amateur, the Gentleman’s Club and all races listed “NO BPO” on the schedule,

is subject to the Billings Purchase Option (BPO). The BPO means every horse entered in a Billings race is subject to be bought by any Billings Driver competing the night the BPO is exercised for \$20,000 plus allowances of: 50% for 3 year olds, 25% for 4 year olds and 20% for mares. If two or more BPO's are exercised on the same horse in an event a Billings Director or appointee will randomly pick by lot the new owner. A member driving in a leg cannot exercise a BPO on the horse he/she is driving in that event. The BPO Exerciser must inform and provide all necessary paperwork (BPO Exercise Form) and fees to the Driver of the horse being purchased, the BPO Exercisee, at least 30 minutes prior to post time of the first race (including non-betting events) on the host track's card that race day. Payment must be made with a Certified Check, cashier's check or legal bank draft to owner or owner representative of the horse being purchased. The conveyance of payment or attempt to make payment by the BPO Exerciser must be witnessed by the same designated witness who executed the BPO Exercise Form as the witness. The owner(s) of the horse purchased through the BPO must deliver the horse within 48 hours of the executed BPO with papers ready for transfer. The new BPO owner **MUST** register the horse in his/her name or stable name and must retain ownership for 60 days unless returned to a Billings race and the horse has another BPO exercised on it or is claimed. In the event a BPO is attempted and the sale is refused for any reason or the transfer of ownership cannot be accomplished, the driver will forfeit all points accumulated in that race and be penalized with a 20 point deduction from their series total. The horse in question will not be eligible to any other Billings races for the remainder of that Billings season, including Regional Finals and Gold, Silver or Bronze Cup Races. Any Billings member who is involved in a 2<sup>nd</sup> unsuccessful BPO attempt will be excluded from all races remaining in that series. Also the DMHDA Directors will review the two situations and may suspend the member from participating in all remaining Billings races for the remainder of that Billings season, including Regional Finals and Gold, Silver or Bronze Cup Races without refund.

- C. Unless otherwise stated on the schedule, all entries are to be made to the Billings Chancellor by 6:00pm **EASTERN TIME** on the day **preceding** the draw day listed on the condition sheet for the host track. Entries are to be called in at **TEL. # (609) 439-5375** (i.e. if the box closes at the host track on Wednesday any time of day, the entry for a Billings race at that track will have to be submitted on the preceding day, Tuesday at 6pm EST). **Do NOT enter horses using the Online Entry system at any Race Track. If a horse is entered online, it will only be used if necessary; otherwise the horse will be EXCLUDED.** The only exceptions to this will be listed on the schedule as **ENTER DIRECT to TRACK**. At these tracks you will enter your horse direct to the host track and the box will close at a day and time designated by them.
- D. Each leg of the Billings series will be seeded by the Billings Chancellor or the host Race Secretary in accordance with the Billings series policy. The Billings Chancellor submits his recommendations to the host track's Race Secretary on draw day and it is his sole discretion whether to use the races as suggested or rearrange them however he/she sees fit. The host track's Race Secretary has **FINAL** say on the seeding of races. Complaints should **NEVER** be voiced to **ANY** host track official. Any inquiries should be made to a Billings Director. **If a Race Secretary is questioned or harassed at all by anyone connected to the Billings, the driver, trainer and owner of said entry may be suspended. The length of the suspension will be decided by the Racing Committee.** A driver must be named at time of entry to each horse. The Billings Chancellor or Host Race Secretary may handicap horses within a division. A horse that wins 2 consecutive Billings starts will be assigned the outside post in its next Billings race. A horse that wins 3 consecutive starts in the top division or 5 total legs in the top division of any Billings Series races must race with a \$15,000 claiming price in all subsequent legs for that calendar year or standout for the remainder of the year until the Gold/Silver Cup races where said horse may race if it fits any of the Conditions for those races.

- E. **The management of each host racetrack in the series or the Billings Racing Committee reserves the right to reject any entry of horse or driver.**
- F. Safety vests are recommended and sulkies must be certified where mandated. Local racing commission rules govern.
- G. Drivers can be entered in only **ONE** division of each leg of the series, unless extra horses are requested by the Racing Committee. Points will be awarded to DRIVERS for participation in each division in accordance with the scoring system based on the following formula:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place = (S+5) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = (S) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = (S-2) 4<sup>th</sup> Place = (S-3)  
5<sup>th</sup> Place = (S-4) 6<sup>th</sup> Place = (S-5) 7<sup>th</sup> Place = (S-6) 8<sup>th</sup> Place = (S-7) etc.**

Where S = Number of points equal to the number of horses that actually started in that division. A driver named to drive a horse which has been entered and has incurred an excused scratch will be awarded 2 points only if the driver appears at and is prepared to drive in the event from which the horse was scratched. In the event of a Dead Heat, the total points for the positions tied for will be distributed evenly among those drivers.

- H. In the event the named driver does not show for the event in which he/she is named to drive, a substitute driver who meets the ELIGIBILITY OF DRIVERS conditions listed as contained herein and who is eligible to drive in the series will be assigned to drive in the named drivers place. The substitute driver, if he/she was not named to drive in that leg or if his or her horse is an excused scratch from that leg, will be awarded points in accordance with the foregoing described point system. However, if the substitute driver is named to drive in another division of the same leg of the series or is an unexcused scratch from that leg, the substitute driver will receive no points in the race in which he/she substitutes for a named driver. All other participants will be awarded points in such race in accordance with where they finish in the race.

- I. When multiple drives occur for a member in a leg, the scoring will be as follows: (a) if it is a regular leg and extra horses are requested by the Racing Committee to fill the fields, the driver must select which horse he wants to use for points prior to the draw and will get points **ONLY** for that race. Once that selection is made, regardless of circumstance, the choice cannot be switched. (b) if it is a travel venue where the local track supplies the majority of the horses and **EVERY** driver has the same number of drives, the best point total of all races will be taken for each driver. If drivers have uneven number of starts, all drivers must pick the horse they will use for points prior to racing.
- J. **Any driver receiving any length suspension or a fine of \$200 or greater in a Billings Race will NOT be permitted to race in the next event in that Series.**
- K. **ANY HORSE, WITH A POST-RACE POSITIVE TEST, THAT IS REPORTED BY ANY RMTC ACCREDITED NORTH AMERICAN LAB IN ANY AMATEUR RACE CONDUCTED BY THE BILLINGS, NAADA OR ANY OTHER USTA RECOGNIZED AMATEUR CLUB, SHALL HEREIN AFTER BE BARRED FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY OTHER BILLINGS EVENTS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE THAT THE REPORTED POST-RACE POSITIVE TEST SHALL FIRST BECOME KNOWN TO THE BILLINGS RACING COMMITTEE.**

**ALL POINTS EARNED FROM THE RACE THE HORSE TESTED POSITIVE IN TO THE DATE OF THE POSITIVE TEST BECOMING KNOWN, WITH SAID HORSE, SHALL BE FORFEITED AND THE STANDINGS ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY. THE DRIVER OF SAID HORSE WILL HAVE THEIR STATUS AS A MEMBER OF BILLINGS SERIES EVALUATED BY THE RACING COMMITTEE.**

**IN ADDITION, WHEN THERE IS A REPORTED POST- RACE POSITIVE TEST AS AFORESAID, IN ANY AMATEUR RACE, THE TRAINER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENTRY SHALL *NOT* BE PERMITTED TO ENTER ANY HORSE IN ANY BILLINGS EVENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE THAT THE REPORTED POST-RACE POSITIVE TEST SHALL FIRST BECOME KNOWN TO THE BILLINGS RACING COMMITTEE.**

**BY VIRTUE OF ENTERING A HORSE IN A BILLINGS RACE, A PARTICIPATING OWNER, TRAINER AND DRIVER ACKNOWLEDGES AND ACCEPTS ALL THE CONDITIONS OF THE SERIES UNDER WHICH PARTICIPATION IS PERMITTED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THIS PROVISION.**

- L. If less than the host racetrack's minimum for eligible starters declare into a leg, that leg may be cancelled. If a leg is cancelled for any reason, no points will be awarded. If a race is contested on a particular race card and any subsequent legs are cancelled, all drivers in the cancelled leg/legs will be awarded points equal to half the number of horses drawn into the race with the most entries. The drivers in the race that was run will get points in the usual manner.
- M. If a driver named to drive fails to show and does not submit to the Billings Racing Committee an acceptable documented written excuse said driver will be accorded a 5 point penalty which will be doubled with each successive unexcused absence. In this situation, the replacement driver must be an eligible Billings Member. If all eligible drivers already have programmed drives for that leg, a director in attendance or appointee will either draw by lot or select a driver to drive the horse in question. The substitute driver is responsible for all entry and paddock fees associated with procuring the extra drive in that leg.
- N. If a horse entered in the Billings Series is scratched, the named driver of that scratched horse must submit a veterinary certificate, if requested, to the Billings Racing Committee certifying the reason for the scratch. Unexcused scratches will result in the named driver being accorded 5 penalty points which will be doubled by each successive unexcused scratch.
- O. If a horse is entered with a Claiming Price, it will be the responsibility of the driver listed on the horse to assure that a properly executed Claiming Authorization form from the owner of the horse and the horse's Registration



Certificate is on file at the host racetrack where the Billings leg is to be contested to avoid having the horse scratched.

- P. If (a) more entries declare into a leg than can be accommodated by the racetrack conducting the leg of the series or (b) the number of entries declared which when divided results in fields less than the host track is willing to card, some entries may be pulled out. Anyone who has a “Billings Preference” which means they were already pulled out of a previous leg will have first preference to race, provided everyone entered does not have the same situation. Otherwise entries will be selected just as they are done by the host racetrack which would be by date, usually using the last two races. Anyone who is pulled out will receive a “Billings Preference” and will be awarded points equal to half the number of horses drawn into the race with the most starters.
- Q. The 5% driver’s commission for **ALL** Billings Races will be deducted at each track and contributed to either the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame, to the DMHDA for further contribution to the Harness Racing Museum or to a local charity. If a commission check is sent direct to the driver’s residence, as happens with many Canada legs, the checks must be endorsed and sent to the Billings Treasurer as soon as possible.
- R. Each participant in a Billings Series race is **REQUIRED** to pay the caretaker of the horse he/she is driving a minimum of \$50.00 as tip for preparing the horse properly and sending the driver out onto the track safely. The tip is not required if it is included as part of a starting fee when stated at certain venues.

## **CONDITIONS for SERIES FINALS**

1. Series Finals will be raced at One Mile. No points will be awarded from any Series Final. Drivers must have raced in at least 3 legs in that series to participate in the Final for any Series. Horses must have raced in at least 2 legs in that series to participate in the Final for any Series. This number may be reduced to 1 if deemed necessary by the Racing Committee to fill the race. All Series Finals will take the drivers in point order to fill the starting gate at the track which is hosting that Final. For example, if the Final is at Yonkers, the top 8 point earners would qualify. If it were at Pocono, the top 9 drivers would qualify. If it were at the Meadowlands, the top 10 drivers would qualify and so on. Ties for the last spot to make the Final will be broken by the driver who has the highest BSDR for that series.
2. Horses with 2 Series starts, that are non-winners of \$8,001\*\* in last 5 starts counting only purses greater than \$1,100 and are non-winners of \$1,500 per start, with a minimum of 8 starts, in the current calendar year. If said horse does not have 8 starts in the current calendar year, the average of the previous year plus the current year will be used as long as that totals 8 starts.
3. Horses with 2 Series starts, that are entered with a basic claiming price of \$10,000 or \$15,000. If the venue has no provision for claiming races, then the horse must have started for \$15,000 or lower in its previous start.

## **ELIGIBILITIES for GOLD and SILVER CUP FINALS**

1. Gold & Silver Cup Races will both be at 1 mile. If requested by the host racetrack, the distance and number of entrants may be altered to accommodate their wishes. Horses must have 2 Series starts for the Gold Cup and 1 Series start for the Silver Cup. They must be non-winners of \$8,001\*\* in last 5 starts counting only purses greater than \$1,100 and are non-winners of \$1,500 per start, with a minimum of 8 starts, in the current calendar year. If said horse does not have 8 starts in the current calendar year, the average of the previous year plus the current year will be used as long as that totals 8 starts.
2. Horses with 2 Series starts for the Gold Cup or 1 Series start for the Silver Cup, that are entered with a basic claiming price of \$10,000 or \$15,000. If the venue has no provision for claiming races, then the horse must have started for \$15,000 or lower in its previous start.
3. All horses that raced in the Eastern #2 or Mid-Western Finals are automatically eligible for the Gold or Silver Cup races.
4. Drivers for Gold Cup will be eligible as follows: 10 drivers will be eligible. Eligibility will be determined immediately after the completion of each Series Final. The Point winners from each of the 4 series will qualify, as will the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Point driver in the Travel Series. The Series Final winners from each series that has a Final Race will qualify. If the Series Final winner is the same as the Point winner, the driver in Second Place in the Point Standings for that Series will then qualify. If that driver is already in the Gold Cup, we will then just go down the Point list until a driver not already named to the Gold Cup is selected. All Ties for any positions in the standings will be broken by the driver who has the highest BSDR for that series. The last two entries will be given to the

highest point getters in the Overall Standings that are not in the Gold Cup by virtue of any of the 4 Series results.

5. Drivers for Silver Cup will be eligible as follows: 10 drivers will be selected. After filling the Gold Cup, the 10 drivers for the Silver Cup will be filled from the next highest point getters in the Overall Season Standings.

- **Nominations by mail close April 15<sup>th</sup> 2017. In person payments may be made ONLY at the FIRST leg of the EAST or MID-WEST SERIES #1. All other payments will be subject to the dates and fees listed below.**
- **Nominations fee for Regular Members: \$200.00 (US Funds) (if paid by 4/15/17)**
- **Nominations fee for Student Members (ages 15-21): \$50.00 (US Funds)**
- **Patron Nomination fee: \$50.00 (US Funds) Permits 2 starts only. If after the 2 starts said driver wants to be a Full Member, the fee is an additional: \$200.00 (US Funds)**
- **Late Nomination fee: \$250.00 (US Funds) for Regular Members if paid after April 15<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**INQUIRIES TO:**

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