



Message to Horsemen Participating in New York County Fairs

Aug. 16, 2018

RE: Canceled County Fair Points

There have been many questions regarding the procedure for canceled New York County Fair racing programs and I hope this helps to answer some of your questions and explain what has been implemented.

The procedure for canceled programs as stated in the County Fair conditions is:

(25) Cancellation: Should circumstances prevent the racing of any County Fair Series races, with the exception of the finals, or consolation race, (if scheduled), the monies and points will be prorated among owners of entered horses on the grounds for the uncontested event at the time of declaring off. The money will not be counted as money earned. The points will count towards the finals. The cancelled event of County Fair Series will also count as a start for the County Fair Series final or consolation, if scheduled, for the horses declared in.....

Many horsemen have noted that points have never been awarded in the past for canceled events. That is true; the conditions for the County Fair series were changed for the 2017 race season, when there were no canceled events, and remained in the conditions for the 2018 racing season.

This year after the cancellation of the Boonville fair on July 24, the Breeding Fund prorated 100 points for each event, regardless of the number of starters programmed. Since that time, the Fund received many calls from horsemen who argued that only the number of points that would have been available if the race was contested should be awarded. For instance, in a three-horse race only 87 points are available: 50 for first, 25 for second and 12 for third. The Fund carefully listened to this argument, reviewed the County Fair conditions and the procedure for awarding points in the other tiers of the NYSS program, and has made a decision that awarding only the "available" points for each event is in the interest of fairness for the program when the conditions are not explicit on this matter.

As a result, points have been updated for the Boonville fair to prorate "available" points. This may result in a change in the point totals for horses programmed at the Boonville Fair. The Bath fair (scheduled for Aug. 14) was also canceled and points were awarded based on "available" points. As of the afternoon of Aug. 16, 2018, the point totals were updated. All horsemen are encouraged to check their current point standings after this adjustment.

Should you have any additional questions, please call the Breeding Fund office at 518-388-0178.

M. Kelly Young
Executive Director