

# IMPORTANT RACING Terms to Know



## ALLOWANCE RACE

In an allowance race, horses are not for sale and the purses are generally higher. These races have set conditions and weights to carry with weight "allowed" off for meeting other conditions.

## ALSO ELIGIBLE

A horse officially entered to run in a race, but who will not be permitted to start unless the field is reduced by scratch below a specified number.

## BACKSTRETCH

The straightway on the farther side of an elliptical or oval racecourse. It typically runs parallel to the grandstand and the homestretch where the finish line is located.

## BLINKERS

A hood designed with partial cups behind the horse's eyes that limit their rear vision and some side vision, depending on design. Blinkers may prevent a horse from ducking away from objects or other horses.

## CLAIMING RACE

A race in which any competing horse is subject to be purchased for a preset price. A claim is made before the race, and a price is set by the conditions of the race. If the horse wins prize money during the race, the money goes to the previous owner.

## CLASS

Just as a horse earns a speed rating for its performance in a race, the race receives a class rating to measure the strength of the field. The class rating is a weighted average of the last 6 months of previous speed ratings from the horses entered in that race.

## CONFORMATION

The physical appearance of a horse due to the arrangement of muscle, bone and other body tissue. Good conformation is the overall blending of body parts to form a beautiful athlete.

## DISTANCE

The length commonly used to describe the distance between horses in a race.

## FAST TRACK

Rating of a dirt track that is dry and hard.

## FURLONG

A distance equal to one-eighth of a mile, 220 yards or 660 feet.

## HANDICAPPER

One who assigns weights for handicap race. *Also*, one who makes selections based on past performances. Find our Handicapper's picks in today's program.

## HOME STRETCH

The final straight section of the track leading to the finish.

## INQUIRY

Reviewing the race to check into a possible infraction of the rules. *Also*, a sign flashed by officials on the tote board on such occasions.

## JUVENILE

A two-year-old horse.

## LONG SHOT

A horse with little perceived chance of winning a race. Odds are high on a long shot, with winning bets resulting in big money payouts.

## MAIDEN

Any horse who has never won a race is known as a maiden. To win that first race is known as "breaking his/her maiden". This also applies to non-winning riders.

## MORNING LINE

Approximate odds quoted before wagering determines exact odds.

## ODDS

The chances of a horse to win a particular race based on the pari-mutuel wagering of the general public. Wager confidently using our How to Wager Guide.

## PACE

The speed of the leaders at each stage of the race.

## PARI-MUTUEL

Pari-mutuel betting is the most common form of horseracing betting. The term actually originated in France, and literally translates to "wager amongst ourselves." Instead of betting against the race track, horseracing bettors are wagering against each other.

## PAST PERFORMANCES

A compilation in Daily Racing Form of a horse's racing record, including all pertinent data, as a basis for handicapping. Learn how to identify calculable information with our How to Read Guide.

## PHYSICALITY

A horse's build and structure which determines the acceptability or unacceptability of the horse's conformation.

## PEDIGREE

Family tree of a horse. In the Thoroughbred, it can be traced back to the creation of the breed (from a mixture of Arab and Barb horses) two hundred years ago.

## RUNNING STYLES

A horse is either a pace-setter (races out in front), a stalker (in the middle) or a closer (comes from behind.)

## SCRATCH

To be taken out of a race.

## SURFACE

The surface of a horse racing track refers to the material of which the track is made. There are three types of track surfaces used in modern horse racing including turf, dirt and artificial.

## THOROUGHBRED

A breed of horse known for speed and endurance while racing long distances.

## TOTE BOARD

A display board that shows betting information like odds, post time, results of each race and winning payouts, typically located in the infield.

## TRIP

A horse's race.

## WORKOUTS

To exercise a horse.

## WANT MORE INSIDER TIPS?

Visit the Racing 1.0 booth on select race dates. We can teach you:

**HOW TO READ** | Identify valuable information in the racing program to help you pick a winner.

**THOROUGHBRED CHARACTERISTICS** | Discover which physical attributes to look for in a horse to select your favorite.

**HOW TO WAGER** | Learn the basics of betting to wager confidently.

**3 STRATEGIES TO PICK A WINNING HORSE** | Learn our top three strategies on how to pick a winner.