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November 12, 2009

## **Notice to the Industry**

### **Improved access to the Commission through the Appeals Process**

The Board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) is examining ways and means to both streamline and improve efficiencies in the licensee appeal process, while continuing to ensure due process.

Licensees have the right to appeal all rulings issued by the Judges or Stewards for violations of the Rules of Racing. Under the current system, where the fine is less than \$500 or a suspension is less than 30 days, a hearing is held before the Ontario Racing Industry Board of Appeal, which sits in two divisions – Thoroughbred and Standardbred. The decision of the Board of Appeal can subsequently be appealed to a panel of the Commission.

From 2005 to 2008, the Board of Appeal divisions each sat for an average of five days throughout the year and held approximately 20 hearings. A considerable number of those decisions were appealed and subsequently heard by the Commission, adding to the length of time and costs of the appeals process.

The ORC Board intends to introduce an alternative which will streamline the process, as well as enhance efficiencies and provide direct access to the Commission. In place of the Board of Appeal, fines of less than \$500 or suspensions less than 30 days would be heard directly by an ORC Panel. The intention is to continue the spirit of the Board of Appeal and provide an informal forum to hear these appeals.

The ORC is committed to a system where all licensees are treated fairly and with equal access to due process. Industry participants are encouraged to provide their comments on this improved system of access.

You are invited to please do so by end of day – November 20, 2009. You may send your input, as follows.

By Website: Use the “Opportunity for Input” form  
By Email: [inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca](mailto:inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca)  
By Fax: 416-213-7827

John L. Blakney  
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