

# UPDATE TO MEMBERS



## THE H.B.P.A. of ONTARIO

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## TRACK OFFICES

**WOODBINE:**  
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*Representing the  
Thoroughbred Horsemen and  
Horsewomen of Ontario*

## IMPORTANT DATES

For those horse people who are stabled at Woodbine can begin shipping into the backstretch on Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup> and training will commence on Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>. Opening day for Woodbine's 2017 racing season is scheduled for Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## ASSISTANT TRAINER AND TRAINER TESTING DATES FOR 2017

Are you interested in taking the Assistant Trainer or Trainer test this year?

The following are the Application and Test dates for 2017:

<u>Application Due</u>	<u>Test Date</u>
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	April 26 <sup>th</sup>
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	June 7 <sup>th</sup>
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	July 26 <sup>th</sup>
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	September 27 <sup>th</sup>

Applications are available at the HBPA backstretch office or online at: <http://www.hbpa.on.ca/services/assistant-trainer-and-trainer-testing/> Please note that applications must be completed and submitted three weeks prior to the test dates.

## JOCKEY CLUB OF CANADA'S 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SOVEREIGN AWARD

The Jockey Club of Canada will be hosting the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Sovereign Awards on Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Palais Royale located in Toronto, Ontario. Tickets are now available at an Early Bird discount for \$200 each or a table of 10 for \$2,000; this deal is only available until March 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will then be available at a cost of \$250 each or a table of 10 for \$2,400. All tickets are plus applicable taxes and must be reserved in advance by contacting Melanie at The Jockey Club of Canada at 416-675-7756 or [jockeyclub@bellnet.ca](mailto:jockeyclub@bellnet.ca)

## WEG / HBPA MEETINGS

The HBPA of Ontario has been meeting with WEG for several months regarding the racing program for 2017. While some progress has been made, it has been very slow so at this point we do not have information to share. We are sensitive to the fact that horsepeople need answers so they can plan for their horses and we are doing all we can to move this along. Please do not listen to rumours and innuendo, we will notify our members as soon as we have facts.

Issues that remain unresolved are:

- **Stakes schedule** – Dropping some stakes and other changes are being contemplated and discussed, but the schedule has been changed numerous times and is still evolving. We have not seen the latest proposal from WEG
- **OS Program** – Once again there has been much discussion of options, but no agreement on a finalized program. There are still details not agreed to within the program. We do not anticipate a cut in the OS bonuses, but further negotiations are needed
- **Purses** – The HBPA has taken the position that if purse cuts are made to the stake program, that money must be reinvested into overnight purses. We do not have an agreement from WEG yet on this issue. Further, no decision has been made as to how that money could be allocated to overnights should this happen.

We will be back in touch once we have the facts we can share. We too are frustrated and ask for your patience.