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Zero Tolerance for Threatening, Harassing, or Abusive Language or Behavior

MRC Rule 7897.0100, subpart 6a, states: **Hostile acts.** No person shall engage in conduct or use language that is threatening, harassing, or abusive toward a person or animal while on the grounds of an association.

What is the Commission's zero-tolerance policy? The Minnesota Racing Commission has a zero-tolerance policy related to any conduct or language that is threatening, harassing, or abusive to anyone or any animal on the grounds of the racetrack. This includes verbally harassing or abusing any Commission veterinarian, steward, investigator, or other Commission staff, as well as any track employee or backstretch worker. This behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

What will happen if someone violates this policy? The stewards will conduct a hearing upon the report to them of anyone engaging in threatening, abusive, or harassing conduct. The stewards will impose penalties, including fines, for any violation of the hostile acts rule. These penalties will apply to first time violations.

Below are some pending MRC rule changes that may alter eligibility, workout requirements and racing equipment prior to or during the 2025 Live Racing Season. For a full list of the pending rule changes, please visit mn.gov/mrc.

7883.0100, Subp. 2a. **Prohibited Starters.** (E) No horse shall be permitted to start if: it is a Thoroughbred or Quarter Horse that has raced more than 3 times in 30 consecutive days.

7883.0100, Subp. 16. **Workout Requirements.** (B) A Quarter Horse that has not started for a period of 46 days or more is not eligible to start until it has completed one timed workout within 45 days of and no less than 48 hours prior to the race in which it is entered. A Quarter Horse that has not started for a period of 61 days or more is not eligible to start until it has completed two timed workouts within 60 days and no less than 48 hours before the race in which it is entered.

7883.0100, Subp. 20. **Quarter Horses must stand in the gate.** Each Quarter Horse entered in a stakes race must stand in the starting gate either the day before or the day of the race in which the horse is entered.

7883.0170(A) **Equipment.** (3)(b) For Quarter Horses, toe grabs, other than wear plates with a height no greater than four millimeters (0.15748 inches), bends, jars, caulks, stickers or any other traction device worn on the front shoes are prohibited. Toe grabs greater than 6.35 millimeters (0.25 inches) from the ground surface side of the hind shoes are prohibited.

Additionally, the following rules regarding eligibility continue to be in effect for the 2025 Live Racing Season.

7883.0100, Subp. 6. **Prohibited Entries.** No person shall: (e) enter a horse that is 12 years of age or older; (k) enter a horse that, as of January 1 of the calendar year, is a six-year-old or older maiden or a horse that has not started in two or more years.