

# Washington Horse Racing Commission

## Jockey Agent Study Guide- 2014

If you are interested in becoming a jockey agent you must be licensed by the Washington Horse Racing Commission (WHRC). To receive a jockey agent license you must meet the following requirements:

1. Interview with the board of stewards to discuss your knowledge and experience in the horse racing industry.
2. Have an agreement with a jockey to be his/her agent.
3. Must pass the jockey agent written test with a score of 80% or better. The test will consist of rules of racing pertaining to jockeys and agents and routine entering procedures. If the applicant fails the written test they will not be allowed to retake the test for at least fourteen (14) days.
4. Pay licensing fees and submit fingerprints.
5. Pass the criminal background check per WAC 260-36-120.

The following information is designed to assist applicants who are applying for a jockey agent license for the first time. When applying for their initial license the applicant will be required to pass a written test to assure the board of stewards that he/she is qualified to be a jockey agent. As a jockey agent you are expected to understand and follow all the rules of racing. All questions on the written test will be covered in this study guide, the rules of racing (Title 260 WAC) and the association condition books. If you are able to use the Internet you can access the rules of racing by going [www.whrc.wa.gov](http://www.whrc.wa.gov) and go to the “rules of racing” tab.

This study guide is intended to highlight some of the rules and policies that you will need to have a good understanding of prior to becoming a jockey agent. You will also need to study all the rules of racing. The following chapters pertain to the day-to-day activities of the jockey agent:

- Chapter 260-28 - Ownerships, trainers and employees
- Chapter 260-32 – Jockeys, Apprentices and agents
- Chapter 260-34 - Drug and Alcohol testing of licensees
- Chapter 260-36 - Licenses
- Chapter 260-40 - Entries, starts, declarations and scratches
- Chapter 260-44 - Weights and equipment
- Chapter 260-52 - The race –Paddock to finish

### **Jockey Agent Duties:**

You need to review WAC 260-32-400, WAC 260-32-410, and WAC 260-32-420 which outlines the specific rules for a jockey agent. Following is a brief outline of the duties of a jockey agent:

1. You must be licensed by the WHRC and pass the criminal background check.
2. **A jockey agent may be the owner of a horse under the following conditions:**

**(a) A jockey agent may only enter one horse that they have an ownership interest in for any overnight race.**

**(b) A jockey agent may not claim a horse.**

**(c) A jockey whom the jockey agent represents must ride the horse, unless approved by the stewards, or no other jockey that the jockey agent represents may compete against the horse.**

3. **A jockey agent may represent up to three jockeys.**
4. No jockey agent shall make or assist in making any engagement for any rider other than those he is licensed to represent, without prior approval of the board of stewards, which may be granted for a temporary time period not to exceed ten days.
5. **If a jockey agent is absent for a period of more than ten days, the jockey will be required to engage another jockey agent.**
6. If any jockey agent gives up the making of engagements for any rider, he/she shall immediately notify the stewards, and he/she shall also turn over to the stewards a list of any unfilled engagements he/she may have made for that rider. A jockey agent may not drop a rider without notifying the board of stewards in writing. The stewards will decide all rival claims for the services of a rider. Jockey agents who fail to honor commitments made are subject to disciplinary action. Failure to honor commitments you have given for your rider may result in disciplinary action.
7. Each jockey agent shall keep, on a form provided by the association, a record by races of all engagements made by him of the riders he is representing. This record must be kept up to date and held ready at all times for the inspection by the stewards.
8. A jockey may have only one agent. All engagements to ride shall be made by his/her agent. **All jockeys are bound by agreements made on their behalf by their jockey agent.** Jockeys shall faithfully fulfill all engagements in respect to racing, unless excused by the board of stewards or a physician.
9. A jockey agent is prohibited from entering the jockey quarters, winner's circle, racing surface, paddock or saddling enclosure unless permitted by the stewards (260-32-420).
10. **A jockey agent shall not give to any one, directly or indirectly any information or advice pertaining to a race or engage in the practice commonly known as "touting" for the purpose of influencing any person, or that would tend to do so, in the making of a wager on the result of any race (WAC 260-32-410).**

As a jockey agent you should also have a good understanding of the rules regarding both journeyman jockeys and apprentice jockeys. This is really important when you have a new rider that has not ridden in Washington. The WHRC board of stewards has developed policies in regard to the jockeys that are reviewed each year by the jockeys and the Jockey Guild. The following are some of the highlights of the policies and WAC's that as an agent you should know and understand:

## **Licensing:**

Before a jockey or exercise rider can get on a horse they must have a WHRC license. **In Washington all jockeys that will be working or exercising any horses during training, must also have an exercise rider license in addition to their jockey license.** This is required by the industrial insurance program that covers workers in the horse racing industry. All applicants for a WHRC license are fingerprinted initially and then every fourth year or when requested by the WHRC.

## **Minimum requirements for a jockey license:**

In order to obtain a jockey license a person must meet the following minimum requirements:

- **Be at least sixteen years of age**
- Be engaged by a trainer to ride a race
- If this is an initial license, the person must have passed the qualification for being a jockey and be approved by the board of stewards, the starter and at least two journeymen jockeys.

## **Safety Equipment (WAC 260-32-105):**

- **It shall be mandatory that jockeys wear a protective helmet and safety vest in compliance with WAC 260-12-180.**
- The weight of the protective helmet shall not be included in the jockey's weight.
- The safety vest shall weigh no more than two pounds and shall not be included in the jockey's weight.
- Safety vests shall not be altered.

## **Reporting in prior to race (WAC260-32-150):**

**Every jockey who is engaged in a race shall report to the scale room on the day of the race at the time required by the officials.** He/she shall then report his/her engagements and overweight, if any, to the clerk of scales, and thereafter, except with the permission of the stewards, shall not leave the jockey room, except to view the races from a point approved by the stewards or to ride in a race, until all of his/her engagements of the day have been fulfilled.

## **Jockey Fees (WAC 260-32-180):**

The commission must approve jockey riding fees prior to the beginning of a race meet.

If any owner or trainer engages two or more jockeys for the same race, he/she shall pay the losing fee for each jockey not riding in the race, as well as the proper fee to the jockey who does ride. **In the event an owner or trainer elects to remove a jockey from his/her mount after scratch time or such other time as designated by the stewards, the stewards may require a double jockey fee to be paid. The double jockey fee to be paid may be equal to that earned by the jockey who rode the race or a losing fee, as determined by the board of stewards.**

**A jockey's fee shall be considered earned when the clerk of scales weighs out the jockey.** The fee shall not be considered earned if the jockey, of his/her own free will, takes himself/herself off his/her mount, where injury to the horse or rider is not involved. Any conditions or considerations not covered by the above ruling shall be at the discretion of the stewards.

In a dead heat the jockeys involved shall divide equally the sum total of the fees they would have received individually had one beaten the other or others. Likewise, the owners of the horses involved shall pay their equal share.

### **Physical Examinations (WAC 260-32-160):**

**During the conduct of a meeting, if the board of stewards has reasonable concerns that a jockey may be unfit to ride due to physical ailment, the board of stewards may require that any jockey be examined by a physician and may refuse to allow said jockey to ride until he/she presents a physician's statement that the jockey is physically fit to ride.**

### **Jockey Wagering (WAC 260-32-170):**

There are specific rules regarding when a jockey may wager on a race. The rules apply to wagering on track and also if the jockey has an account with an Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) organization. The WHRC has access to all individual accounts with the ADW groups and can request reports on any individual's wagering. All jockeys should know and abide by the wagering rules at all times. Any willful violation of these rules may constitute a gross misdemeanor and when such violation is by a person holding a license, their license may be revoked or suspended. A jockey shall only be allowed to wager on a race in which the jockey is riding, and then only if:

- **The owner or trainer of the horse, which the jockey is riding, makes the wager for the jockey on the horse the jockey is riding;**
- **The jockey only wagers on his/her mount to win or finish first in combinations with other horses in multiple wagers; and**
- Records of such wagers are kept and available for presentation upon request by the stewards.
- A jockey shall be allowed to wager on any race as long as the jockey has fulfilled his/her riding engagements for the day and left the jockey's quarters.

### **Apprentice Jockey's:**

**If you are an agent for an apprentice jockey you need to make sure your rider has his apprentice certificate prior to accepting mounts.** The apprentice certificate needs to be turned into the commission office. A record of all wins will be posted to the certificate and returned to the jockey when they leave this jurisdiction. **In order to get the apprentice allowance, the jockey must present the certificate to the stewards at each track.** As an agent you need a good understanding of what horses an apprentice can ride and the different weight allowances they are entitled to claim. You need to review the rules in

WAC 260-32-370 regarding apprentices. The following are the rules that both the apprentice jockey and his agent should know:

- An applicant for an apprentice jockey license will be prohibited from riding until the stewards or the commission has sufficient opportunity to verify the applicant's previous riding experience.
- An applicant for an initial apprentice jockey license will be required to pass the qualifications and skills for being a jockey and be approved by the board of stewards, the starter and at least two journeymen jockeys.
- The stewards will initially grant a provisional license to the applicant and allow them to ride up to three races to determine if an apprentice license will be granted.
- **An apprentice jockey that has ridden less than five winners may not accept mounts on two year olds and first time starters, without prior approval of the board of stewards.**
- The condition of an apprentice jockey license in regard to number of wins does not apply to quarter horse or mixed breed racing. A jockey's performances in quarter horse or mixed breed racing will not be noted on the apprentice certificate. Additionally, there is no apprentice weight allowance in quarter horse or mixed breed races.
- An applicant with an approved apprentice certificate from another jurisdiction may be licensed as an apprentice jockey.
- An apprentice certificate may be obtained from the stewards on a form provided by the commission. A person may not receive more than one apprentice certificate. In case of emergencies, a copy of the original may be obtained from the commission where it was issued.
- **The apprentice jockey will be responsible to have his/her apprentice certificate with them at all times.** Prior to riding, the apprentice certificate will be submitted to the commission at each racing association in which the apprentice is licensed and riding.
- **An apprentice jockey may claim a five-pound allowance beginning with his/her first mount and for one full year from the date of his/her fifth winning mount.** If after riding one year from the date of his/her fifth winning mount, the apprentice jockey has failed to ride a total of forty winners he/she may continue to ride with a five-pound weight allowance for one additional year from the date of his/her fifth winner or until he/she has ridden forty winners, whichever comes first.
- **Apprentice allowances may be waived at the time of entry by the owner, trainer, or authorized agent.**
- **Apprentice allowances may not be claimed in stakes and handicap races.**

- **All apprentice jockeys are required to review all races in which they ride with the film analyst. It is recommended that apprentice jockeys make themselves available to review all the races with the film analyst and the other jockeys.**
- The commission may extend the period in which an apprentice jockey is allowed a weight allowance when, at the discretion of the commission, an apprentice jockey is unable to continue riding due to physical disablement, illness, military service, education, or other valid reasons.
- In order to qualify for an extension, an apprentice jockey must have been rendered unable to ride for a period of not less than seven consecutive days during the period in which the apprentice was entitled to an apprentice weight allowance. Documentation verifying time loss must be presented to the commission in the jurisdiction in which he/she is licensed and riding. The apprentice will be bound by the decision of the jurisdiction where the petitioned the extension.

### **Jockey Riding Suspensions (WAC 260-32-190):**

All horses must be ridden out in every race. A jockey must always give his/her best effort during a race. Each horse must be ridden to win. There are several reasons that could cause a horse to be disqualified:

- If a jockey strikes or touches another jockey or another jockey's horse or equipment;
- If any horse swerves, or is ridden to either side, so as to interfere with, impede, or intimidate any other horse;
- A horse may not interfere with another horse and thereby cause the other horse to lose ground or position, or cause the other horse to break stride. When this interference occurs in the part of the race where the other horse loses the opportunity to place where it might reasonably be expected to finish.
- If the stewards determine the foul was intentional, or due to careless riding, the jockey may be held responsible.

If a horse is disqualified from a placing in the race, the stewards will hold a conference with the jockey to hear his/her view of the incident. **If it is determined that the jockey was at fault for the interference then in most cases the jockey will be given a riding suspension.** There are occasions when the stewards can hold the jockey blameless for the incident and no suspension is issued.

If a jockey is suspended for an offense not involving fraud, and the suspension is for ten days or less, then the jockey may ride in those stakes races, futurity races, futurity trials, or other races which are designated by the board of stewards as races in which the jockey may compete, even though under suspension. **A listing of the designated races shall be posted in the jockey's room,** and any other such place deemed appropriate by the stewards.

A suspended jockey must be named at the time of entry to participate in any designated race. A day in which a jockey participated in a designated race while on suspension shall count as a suspension day, except if the jockey rides more than one race or a designated race in another jurisdiction. If they ride more than one horse or in another jurisdiction an additional suspension day will have to be served.

### **Weights, Weighing in and out:**

In order to represent your rider you need to have an idea as to what weight they will be declaring so you can inform trainers. **If a jockey reports an overweight exceeding two pounds, the owner or trainer has the option to replace the jockey without being assessed a double-jock mount fee.** At Class A & B race meets no horse shall carry more than seven pounds overweight. If the rider weighs more than seven pounds more than the weight the horse is scheduled to carry, a replacement rider will be named. Chapter 260-44 WAC outlines additional rules regarding weighing and out and the jockeys weights and equipment.

### **Entries, Scratches, Starts:**

The racing secretary publishes condition books during the race meet with proposed races he will card for each race day. Chapter 260-40 WAC outlines the rules for entering and scratching horses. The racing secretary lists the entry rules, preference date system rules and various association rules in each condition book. You need to review these rules and make sure you understand them.

As an agent you may be asked to make entries for a trainer. If you are the one filling out the entry card or nomination form, you are responsible for the accuracy. The entries should be made in writing on forms provided by the association. If you are making an entry you need to double check the entry form prior to signing it to make sure all items have been listed on the entry form. Chapter 260-40 WAC explains the rules governing entries and nominations. The following are some of the most common problems we have with entries:

1. **Changes in the use of blinkers, Cornell collar and medications must be listed on the entry blank.**
2. **If the horse is to race without the jockey carrying a whip, it must be declared at entry.**
3. Each race has different weight allowances, these allowances must be made at entry time. Weight allowances are what determine the weight each horse must carry and is declared at entry time. You need to understand the sex allowance and when it is given to a filly or mare. **Weights declared at entry time cannot be reduced after the entries are posted.** This is important when declaring an apprentice allowance.
4. When entering more than one horse in a race for a trainer you need to know if the trainer has a preference. The preference is necessary if an owner has their horses with two different trainers and both the trainers decide to enter the same race. Again you will need to have accurate information or it could result in horses getting scratched and disciplinary action being taken. WAC 260-40-065 lists the rules regarding multiple entries.

5. If you are entering a horse and the registration papers are not in the race office you will need additional information regarding the identification of the horse and information on the ownership.
6. You need to understand the preference date system so that you know which horses will probably draw into the races if the race overfills.
7. You need to understand what an “in today” horse is and report this information on the entry blank. **Horses drawn into a race except stakes will be considered “in-today” horses until the race has been run. In-today horses must be noted at time of entry and in an overfilled race will receive no consideration.**
8. At Emerald Downs there is not a designated scratch time; Emerald Downs has an “enter to run” policy. The only way a horse can be scratched is upon receipt of a vet scratch, change of track conditions since time of entry or other causes acceptable to the board of stewards. These scratches may result in a penalty being assessed to the trainer.
9. You need to make sure the horse is eligible for the race you are entering.
10. If the horse is on the stewards list, vets list, paddock list or starters list it is not eligible to be entered into any race.
11. The horse must be approved from the gate and tattooed before it will be allowed to race.

### **Drug & Alcohol Violations:**

Chapter 260-34 WAC clearly defines the rules regarding alcohol and drug violation. No licensee or applicant, while acting in an official capacity or participating directly in horse racing, shall commit any of the following violations:

- Be under the influence of or affected by intoxicating liquor and/or drugs, have an alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or higher, or have within their body any illegal controlled substances while on the grounds of any licensed race meet;
- The alcohol concentration for persons on horseback may not be 0.02 percent or higher.
- Engage in the illegal sale or distribution of alcohol or a controlled substance;
- Possess an illegal controlled substance;

**The WHRC has implemented a random testing procedure that will place every person holding an exercise rider, pony rider, outrider and jockey license into a random pool and a specific number of these licensees will be tested each week. This list will be computer generated so all persons with these licenses must be aware they could be tested anytime they are performing the duties of their license.**