

# **BIG EVENT PRINT/ONLINE MEDIA BEST PRACTICES FOR RACETRACKS OPERATING WITH LIMITED/NO MEDIA ACCESS**

With many tracks resuming live racing without spectators and limited/no media, the NTRA and NTWAB have put together a series of guidelines to allow print and online media to still have access to connections and provide the level of coverage that is commensurate with the sports' major races. We recognize this situation is fluid and these guidelines are not ideal but we hope that all tracks, horsemen, and media can work together to develop the safest practices possible while still providing widespread ample and accurate content about our most important events.

**These guidelines will be updated and reassessed on a continual basis to maintain the safest and fairest practices.**

Regarding access for the general media, the following guidelines will apply.

## **General Media – Race Day**

- Should media be permitted, Press Box access will be available to, at a minimum, to limited representatives from each of these designated **racing industry trade** publications: BloodHorse, Daily Racing Form, Thoroughbred Daily News, Paulick Report, Horse Racing Nation, and ST Publishing. **Representatives from local outlets** (i.e. local newspaper) and a limited number of representatives from other outlets selected by track publicity with assistance from the NTWAB/NTRA/TPA will also be permitted.
- Social distancing guidelines must be adhered to when designating work space in a press box (i.e. no more than three people in a row, no more than one person at a table, etc) or an interview room. Tracks that offer an auxiliary press box can utilize that space to put overflow members of the designated publications.
- A pool reporter will be provided/designated to assist for media covering the event remotely. In the interest of fairness, the pool reporter should **not** be an employee of the host track.
- Reporters must wear protective masks at all times. In addition, those media members must follow all screening procedures outlined by the respective tracks.

## **Post-race interviews:**

- Representatives of the top-three finishers (trainer/jockey/owner/racing manager/assistant trainer) will be made available to the media via a Zoom video teleconference.
- Audio, video and transcripts of these press conferences will be made available to all media.
- Other quotes - i.e. beaten favorite - will be provided by the track notes team and made available to all media.

- Tracks will provide pool b-roll video footage and photographs to assist coverage needs.
- Social distancing guidelines must be adhered to if designating space in a post-race interview room (i.e. the basement theater at Belmont Park). For those working on site in the press box, there should also be the option to ask questions to connections in the interview room from the press box.

### **Pre-Event Availability**

- Tracks will host a series of media days via video conferences and/or teleconferences in advance of each race event. A horseman's availability schedule will be released in advance (i.e. Baffert at 10:30 a.m., Chad Brown at 11 a.m., Todd Pletcher at 11:15 a.m., etc).
- Trainers who are putting their horses through their final major workouts on the grounds (i.e. at Churchill Downs for Kentucky Derby week; at Belmont Park the week of the Belmont Stakes) will be made available via Zoom video teleconference that day.
- At least one reporter at a time from the designated outlets will be allowed backside access (should protocols allow for any such access). In order to access the backside, reporters must follow screening procedures in place by the host track.
- No gatherings of more than 10 **media members** will be allowed outside of a single barn.

### **Day-After Media Availability**

- Tracks will host a Zoom video teleconference and/or teleconference with winning connections.
- Notes teams will gather other follow up information as needed to be distributed to all media.