

# ONTARIO SIRES STAKES NO. 37

(STANDARD BRED FOALS OF 2007)

**Sponsor:** Ontario Horse Improvement Program, as administered by the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC).

**For:** Standardbred foals of 2007 (foaled between Jan. 1, 2007 and Dec. 31, 2007).

**To Be Raced As:** Two-year-old trotting and pacing colts, fillies and geldings in 2009 and three-year-old trotting and pacing colts, fillies and geldings in 2010.

**To Be Raced At:** Ontario pari-mutuel tracks. The assignment of Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) events to Ontario racetracks will be within the sole discretion of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC).

**Eligibility:** Yearlings (foals of 2007) sired by a stallion that stood the entire 2006 Northern Hemisphere breeding season in Ontario, providing that the stallion was duly registered with the Ontario Sires Stakes Program for the 2006 breeding season. The nominated yearling must be registered with Standardbred Canada or the United States Trotting Association at the time of nomination. Yearlings registered off the continent of North America may be accepted on an individual basis provided a copy of the home country registration certificate accompanies the nomination fee.

## Notes:

1. The OSS will not recognize foals as twins if produced through embryo/ovum transfer. If such foals were produced through embryo/ovum transfer, only the donor mare's first born foal, registered with either Standardbred Canada or the USTA, will be eligible for nomination.

2. Foals conceived from frozen semen will be eligible to the OSS program only if the semen was collected and frozen in Ontario and is from a stallion that was registered for the OSS program both at the time of collection and when the mare was inseminated. The semen must have been obtained through the OSS registered owner, lessee or Syndicate Manager.

## Nomination Payment

**May 15, 2008** **\$50.00**

**Supplemental Nominations:** Nominators failing to make the required May 15 yearling nomination payment are given until July 31, 2008 to fulfill the nomination conditions to OSS#37 for a fee of \$500 or March 15 of their 2 year old season (2009) for a fee of \$5,000.

**Future Payments:** As a courtesy, the OSS Administration will make every effort to advise nominators of future sustaining payments but it is the responsibility of the owner of the eligible colt, filly or gelding to ensure that future sustaining payments are made, whether or not a notice has been received.

Failure to make a payment when due constitutes automatic withdrawal from racing in the stakes events of that year.

## Two-year-olds in 2009

Any two-year-old for which the May 15, 2008 nomination payment (or late fee) was paid is eligible to race in 2009 upon making the following payment:

## Two-year-old Sustaining Payment

**March 15, 2009** **\$400.00 (declare gait)**

**This payment to be made only if you intend to race in 2009.**

**Note:** The March 15, 2009 sustaining payment, when made on an eligible horse, maintains the horse's eligibility to enter in OSS Gold and/or Grassroots events for the two-year-old's gait and sex.

## Three-year-olds in 2010

Any three-year-old for which the May 15, 2008 nomination payment (or late fee) was paid is eligible to race in 2010 upon making the following payment:

## Three-year-old Sustaining Payment

**February 15, 2010** **\$600.00 (declare gait)**

**Note:** The February 15, 2010 sustaining payment, when made for any eligible horse, maintains the horse's eligibility to enter in OSS Gold and/or Grassroots events for the three-year-old's gait and sex.

**Please Note: Starting fees, purses and conditions are subject to change annually.**

**Starting Fee:** In 2008, the starting fee for Grassroots events will be \$350 and the starting fee for Gold Elimination events will be \$750.

There will be no starting fees for the Grassroots Semi-Finals and Finals, Gold Finals, Consolations and Super Finals. The starting fee is due in accordance with Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) rules in effect at race time, but in any event, they must be paid before the horse starts. Cheques should be made payable to "Ontario Sires Stakes."

Trainers and/or owners are responsible for verifying declaration times at each track. These times will be strictly adhered to.

**Fee Distribution:** Nomination and sustaining payments received for any given year are added to the fund and distributed as OSS purses.

**Purse Composition:** The purse shall consist of Horse Improvement Program funds, stallion levies, nomination and sustaining payments, and starting fees with no deductions for clerical or managerial work, or for advertising or publicity.

**The conduct of the Ontario Sires Stakes within the following format is conditional upon annual Ontario Racing Commission approval. Purses, as well as number and type of events, are determined annually based on available funds.**

**Format:** The Ontario Sires Stakes program will be conducted in two independent and distinct events (Gold Series and Grassroots Series); however, the nomination and sustaining payments will make the horse eligible to both events.

**Note:** Although any horse sustained to the OSS is eligible to both the Gold and the Grassroots Series, rules prevailing during the particular racing season will prevent horses from racing in conflicting Gold and Grassroots events as described in the OSS Racing Guide for the applicable year.

**A. Gold Events:** In 2008, there will be a series of forty (40) Gold events with five raced annually in each of the eight categories of age/sex/ gait.

If needed, each Gold Final shall have eliminations that will be raced approximately one week prior to the Gold Final. The eliminations will be held at the same track as the Final whenever possible. The elimination races are to qualify the starters in the field for the Gold Final. If there are not more horses declared to the elimination than can compete in the Final, the elimination will be cancelled and all horses will be considered declared directly into the Final to be held the next week. In this case, the purse of the Elimination will be added to the Final.

A Gold Consolation will be held for horses competing in the eliminations that do not qualify for the Final, provided there are at least six horses declared to the Consolation. If insufficient horses declare into the Consolation, it will be cancelled and the purse will be added to the Final.

Declarations for the Consolation will close on the host track's regular draw date and time. The Consolation will be held the same night and at the same track as the Final. No points towards the Gold Super Finals will be awarded for the Gold Consolation races.

In 2008, each Gold Elimination will race for a purse of \$40,000, each Consolation will race for a purse of \$20,000, and each Gold Final will race for a purse of \$120,000.

All races (eliminations, the Consolation and the Final) under any particular Gold Event are considered one event, and therefore Rule 12.10.02 and 17.12.02 of the Rules of Standardbred Racing may apply.

**Determination of Eligibility to the Gold Finals:** The starters for the Final will be determined by the order of finish in the elimination race(s). For the number of starters permitted for the Final, please refer to the Ontario Sires Stakes Racing Guide for the applicable year. When more than one horse is eligible to the last starting position by virtue of its finish in the elimination races, a draw by lot will be conducted to determine the final starter.

A dead heat may not cause the number of starters to increase. Horses finishing in a dead heat are considered to have finished the same. Horses finishing in a dead heat will be ranked behind horses finishing in the same position but not in a dead heat.

Horses for the Gold Finals will be drawn on the night of the eliminations following the last elimination race. Anyone qualifying for the Gold Final but not wishing to participate must notify the Race Secretary before the draw is made. Three also eligible horses will be drawn in case of early scratches but only two also eligible horses will be programmed.

**Determination of Eligibility to the Gold Consolations:** Horses that race in a Gold Elimination event and do not qualify for that Gold Final are eligible to declare into the Consolation, provided they have not been placed on the Judges' List. Declarations for the Gold Consolation will close on the host track's regular draw date and time. If less than six horses are declared to the Consolation, it will be cancelled and the purse will be added to the Final.

The starters for the Consolation will be determined from the declared horses by their order of finish in the elimination races. Horses drawn as also eligible starters in the Final can be declared into the Consolation but will be required to move from the Consolation into the Final in the event of a scratch before the wagering commences. For the maximum number of starters permitted for the Consolation, please refer to the Ontario Sires Stakes Racing Guide for the applicable year. Two also eligible horses will be drawn for the Consolation.

When more than one declared horse is eligible to the last starting position by virtue of its finish in the elimination races, a draw by lot will be conducted to determine the final starter. A dead heat may not cause the number of starters to increase. Horses finishing in a dead heat are considered to have finished the same. Horses finishing in a dead heat will be ranked behind horses finishing in the same position but not in a dead heat.

**B. Gold Super Finals:** At the end of the OSS season there will be 8 Gold Super Final races, one for each age, sex and gait. In 2008, the purse for each Gold Super Final will be \$300,000. Starters for the Gold Super Finals are determined by a points system; refer to the rules published in the OSS Racing Guide for the applicable year.

**C. Grassroots Events:** In 2008, there will be a series of forty-eight (48) Grassroots events with six raced annually in each of the eight categories for age, sex and gait.

If more horses declare to start in any event than is permitted at that track, the event shall be split into the appropriate number of divisions with entries seeded by lot.

In 2008, each Grassroots event will be contested for a purse of \$20,000 per division.

**D. Grassroots Semi-Finals and Finals:** Contestants in Grassroots Semi-Finals are determined by a points system. Refer to rules published in the OSS Racing Guide for the applicable year.

After the last scheduled Grassroots race, the top sixteen horses entered in each age, sex and gait category will contest a Semi-Final which will be raced in two divisions of eight horses.

In 2008, Grassroots Semi-Finals will race for a purse of \$30,000 per division. No starting fee will be required for these races.

If more than one horse qualifies for the sixteenth and last position

available for the Semi-Final, the sixteenth horse will be selected by lot from among those horses who qualified for that position.

A Grassroots Final will be contested in each category approximately one week later. In 2008, the purse for the Grassroots Finals will be \$60,000.

The number of horses permitted to contest the Grassroots Final will be eight. The starters for the Final will be determined from the order of finish in the Semi-Final races. When more than one declared horse is eligible to the last starting position by virtue of its finish in the Semi-Final races, a draw by lot will be conducted to determine the final starter.

A dead heat may not cause the number of starters to increase. Horses finishing in a dead heat are considered to have finished the same. Horses finishing in a dead heat will be ranked behind horses finishing in the same position but not in a dead heat.

As in the Semi-Final, there will be no starting fee for the Final.

**Breeders' Rewards:** In 2008, the breeder of horses earning purse money in the OSS Program will receive 7% of the horse's OSS earnings in Breeders' Rewards. An additional Breeders' Reward amounting to 8% of all OSS purses will be made available as an Ontario Breeder Reward.

Starting with the 2009 foaling season, a Mare Residency Program is being established. Breeders of horses born in 2009 and later that earn money in the OSS program will be entitled to Breeders' Rewards only if the broodmare was recognized as an Accredited Resident Mare by the Program in the year of foaling out.

**Racing Conditions:** Each of the events shall be raced at a distance of one mile. In Gold Elimination races and Grassroots events that split into two or more divisions, entries shall be seeded by lot.

All races shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) and all participants are strongly advised to make themselves familiar with the rules.

Should conditions beyond the control of the ORC prevent the racing of any event, the ORC reserves the right to declare the event off and to distribute the money to the current eligibles or to transfer the event to another date, or to another track, or to do both.

If a Gold Elimination race has been contested, but circumstances, in the determination of the ORC, prevent the Final or Consolation from being raced at that track, the Final or Consolation may be moved to another track or the ORC may declare the event off and distribute Final or Consolation purse money to horses eligible to the race and pay Breeders' Rewards as determined.

**Money Division:** 5 or more starters: 50-25-12-8-5%; 4 starters: 50-25-15-10%; 3 starters: 60-30-10%; 2 starters: 65-35%; 1 starter: 100%.

**Gait:** Any eligible filly, colt or gelding, changing gait after the sustaining payment in either year, will be eligible to race at the gait adopted.

**Currency:** All amounts mentioned above are in Canadian funds.

**Rules:** These events shall be contested under the above conditions, and under the Ontario Racing Commission Rules of Standardbred Racing and Directives, as well as individual Track Rules as approved by the ORC.

**The ORC, within its sole discretion, may from time to time make changes to the terms, conditions, and the purse structure of the Ontario Sires Stakes, of any nature and kind whatsoever, including the nomination payments, sustaining payments and starting fees, and the nominator hereby agrees to be bound by such changes.**

*It is recommended that payments be sent by Registered Mail to:*

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