

11VAC10-110-30. Horses ineligible to start.

A horse is ineligible to start in a race when:

1. The owner does not possess the required permit issued by the commission or has not applied for the appropriate permit;
2. The trainer, authorized agent or the person having care and supervision of the horse does not possess the appropriate permit issued by the commission or has not applied for the required permit;
3. The horse's certificate of foal registration, eligibility certificate or other registration document issued by the appropriate breed registry is not on file with the racing secretary or permission to start the horse without these documents has not been obtained from the stewards;
4. The horse has not been lip-tattooed or does not possess a readable microchip approved by The Jockey Club for the purposes of identification or is a Standardbred that has not had a freeze-brand number applied;
5. The ownership of the horse has been transferred without notifying the racing secretary and the appropriate breed registry;
6. The horse is subject to a lien or lease that has not been approved by the stewards and filed with the racing secretary and horsemen's bookkeeper; or

7. Nominating, sustaining, entry, starting or any other required fees have not been paid for the horse by the time specified in the published conditions of the race.

11VAC10-110-90. Coupling.

~~All horses entered in the same race and trained by the same trainer shall be joined as a mutuel entry and shall be a single wagering interest.~~ All horses entered in the same race and owned wholly or partially by the same owner or spouse or who have other common ownership ties, shall be joined as a mutuel entry and shall constitute a single wagering interest, ~~except that in stakes races, futurities or other events, the stewards, in their discretion, may permit horses having common trainers but different owners to run as separate wagering interests.~~ No trainer shall enter more than two horses in a race except in split races. No trainer of any horse shall have any ownership interest or lease interest in any other horse in the same race unless such horses are coupled as a single wagering interest. The following provisions shall apply to mutuel entries:

1. The racing secretary shall be responsible for coupling entries for wagering purposes ~~whether based on common owners or and ownership interests of trainers;~~
2. No more than two horses having common ties through ownership ~~or training~~, which would result in a mutuel entry and a single wagering interest, may be entered in an overnight race;

3. When two horses having common ties through ownership ~~or training~~ are entered in an overnight race, ~~then the nominator shall indicate a preference for one of the two horses to start, in Standardbred races, the determination will be based on the preference date~~ preference shall be given to the horse with the earliest preference date or the most stars;

4. Two horses having common ties through ownership ~~or training~~ shall not start as a mutuel entry in an overnight race to the exclusion of another horse nor shall a trainer be permitted to run two horses in a race to the exclusion of another horse; and

5. The racing secretary shall be responsible for assigning horses to the mutuel field when the number of wagering interests exceeds the numbering capacity of the totalizator system; and

6. The uncoupling of two horses having common ties through training is subject to the approval of the trainer.