

New NSA Apprentice Rider Policy and Guidelines

Please be advised that the NSA Stewards Advisory Committee, after a detailed review of several thoughtful comments, has made revisions to the originally posted NSA Apprentice Rider Policy prepared and submitted by the NSA Safety Committee. It is important to note that these new regulations are meant to enhance the safety of our horses and riders, not to inhibit or limit the opportunity for new young riders entering the sport. With that in mind, the Stewards Advisory Committee focused on limiting the exposure of inexperienced horses ridden by our least experienced apprentice jockeys. For good reason, this has been a long and deliberate process that has not been easy to reach a consensus. However, the Committee at this time feels strongly that this new policy is certainly a step in the right direction and will, by design, result in safer racing.

Therefore, by order of the Committee, on behalf of the NSA Board of Directors, the following Apprentice Rider Policy and Guidelines will be in effect for the 2018 NSA season.

NSA Apprentice Rider Policy (Hurdles)

1. New applicants shall have ridden in five (5) races (acceptable to the Stewards Advisory Committee) over fences at Point-to-Points or three (3) sanctioned races over timber prior to being granted a NSA provisional license to ride over hurdles.
2. An apprentice jockey license shall be considered “provisional” by the Stewards Advisory Committee until the jockey wins two (2) hurdle races or completes ten (10) sanctioned rides over hurdles, whichever occurs first. Additionally, the Stewards Advisory Committee reserves the right to determine whether an apprentice jockey is permitted to ride in any hurdle race.
3. An apprentice jockey shall not ride in a maiden hurdle race prior to having completed five (5) sanctioned hurdle rides and then must be approved by the Stewards Advisory Committee. Additionally, a horse which has fallen or lost the rider in two of the horse’s last five starts **or** in the horse’s most recent start, will not be an eligible mount.
4. An apprentice jockey shall not ride a first-time starter over hurdles prior to having completed five (5) sanctioned hurdle rides and then must be approved by the Stewards Advisory Committee.
5. An apprentice jockey shall not ride a three-year-old in a hurdle race prior to having completed five (5) sanctioned hurdle rides and then must be approved by the Stewards Advisory Committee.
6. An apprentice jockey may not ride in a hurdle race at the flat tracks prior to having completed five (5) sanctioned hurdle rides and then must be approved by the Stewards Advisory Committee.

Note: All apprentices are prohibited from riding at any NYRA track.

Further Guidelines for New Rider Applicants

1. A “Provisional License” issued by the Stewards Advisory Committee will be approved for Flat, Hurdle and/or Timber for each new applicant, as the Committee deems appropriate.
2. Flat wins do NOT count against an apprentice claim in steeplechase races.
3. An apprentice jockey shall be endorsed by two (2) licensed trainers in good standing.
4. The Stewards Advisory Committee shall review each “new” applicant and approve every license, as well as review any current licensee referred to the Committee by the Stewards.
5. All apprentice jockeys will meet with the Stewards on race day, 15 minutes prior to the mandatory jockey’s meeting, to review any information pertinent to the day/individual. Additionally, apprentice jockeys will be required to participate in a minimum of one of the two continuing education Stewards Seminars conducted annually.