



## NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE ASSOCIATION

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### STEWARDS' REPORT

**RACE MEETING:** Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens

**DATE:** 11/7/2020

**WEATHER:** overcast and rainy

**COURSE CONDITION:** Soft

Compaction: 60-70

Moisture: 7-8 wet

**CLERK OF SCALES:** Cathy Jackson

**STARTER:** Jeff Teter

**STEWARDS:** Dwight Hall

Greg Pachman

Anne Pezzano

**Woody Maloney**(safety)

**OFFICIAL ACTIONS:** Prior to the start of the races Dwight Hall ( DH ) received a telephone call at 6:40 am on Saturday from Bill Gallo informing DH that he had received a call from Keri Brion to let him know that Jonathan Sheppard's van had broken down with a flat tire and that they would be late in arriving and would probably miss the four hour window for the horses in the first three/four races. Keri told Bill that if she was allowed to run the horses in the first 3/4 races she was comfortable with them running without Lasix since they had not had bleeding issues and they only received four to five cc per horse. DH convened the other three Stewards at the barn and apprised them of the late arrival of Sheppard's van. The stewards had a lengthy discussion regarding letting the horses run or scratching them as called for in rule 10.1 B and took into consideration the following:

There is no pari-mutuel wagering on these races

The van left Camden on time and the break down was through no fault of the Sheppard team.

Running the horses without Lasix provided them with no advantage and is commonly thought to be a disadvantage as opposed to horses who have been treated with Lasix.

During the discussion Ricky Hendriks, the SOTA representative, approached DH and informed him SOTA was supportive of the horses being allowed to run. This request weighed heavily in the Stewards decision.

The circumstances in 2020 have placed an enormous burden on the owners who have kept their horses in training with very little opportunity to run and earn purse money to offset expenses. Likewise, the trainers have also incurred a financial burden. **Due to Covid19 the**

**NSA has altered policies and rules this year, within reason, to protect the sport and its stakeholders.**

A precedent had previously been established when Richard Valentine's horse was late in arriving to the Grand National in 2019 due to his van's breakdown and his horse, who had been declared to run on Lasix, was allowed to run without Lasix.

Given all the factors listed above the Stewards unanimously elected to apply rule 5.2.B.16 to allow the horses to run "...in the best interest of racing."

**Race 1:**

**SKYDIVING** was without to run without Lasix.

**SURPRISING SOUL** fell at the third fence on the final circuit. He cleared the fence but lost his footing a couple of strides after fence. His rider, McLane Hendriks was examined by the course physician and was cleared to ride.

**Boss Man, Belisarius and Great Road** were pulled and reported to have tired.

At approximately 10:30-11:00 o'clock trainer Arch Kinsley approached the Stewards and informed them he had entries in all three of the non-sanctioned races that were running immediately preceding the start of the first sanctioned race and requested that he be allowed to van his entry, Boss man, to the paddock with his ponies/horse who were running in the first three non-sanctioned races. He said that because of the distance back to the barn and our insistence that the races be run on time it was not possible for him to have his horse in the paddock on time unless he was allowed to have him on the van with the ponies/horse. Given the circumstances we agreed to his request with the horse monitored under the supervision of Greg Pachman.

**Race 2:**

**CODRINGTON COLLEGE** was allowed to run without Lasix.

**Race 3:**

**BALTIMORE BUCKO and Another Try** were allowed to run without Lasix.

**HE'LL DO** fell at the last fence. Parker Hendriks was examined by the course physician and was cleared to ride.

Ross Geraghty, the rider on **THE HAPPY GIANT** claimed a foul on **BALTIMORE BUCKO AND ANOTHER TRY** for interference on the approach to the next to last hurdle. A Stewards hearing was held with all three of the riders and the video replay of the incident was extensively reviewed. Although the horses were in tight quarters and there was some bumping the Stewards did not feel the outcome of the race was affected and declared the race official.

**Race 4:**

**Our Legend** was selected at random for pre-race testing.

**A Silent Player and Sportswear** were allowed to run without Lasix.

**Family Tree** fell four fences from home. Barry Foley was examined by the course physician was cleared to ride.

Daren Nagle, the rider on **Sportswear**, elected not to start when the starter and recall flags were dropped, and the entire field started without hesitation. While trying to pull his horse up he interfered with **Not In Charge and Go Get The Basil** pushing them off course and almost causing them to miss the first fence. The interference severely compromised both horses while putting them approximately twenty lengths behind the rest of the field. A hearing was held with Nagel and he was adamant that the starter did not drop his flag and the first five horses in the box were trying to steal the start. The starter was interviewed, and he testified that both he and the recall man dropped *their* flags. The video replay of the race was reviewed, and the starter could not be seen when the field was dispatched, however, the recall flag was clearly visible and was dropped. The Stewards concluded the start was fair and equitable and declared the race official. Because this was the second time this fall that Nagle has refused to start and the significant impact to the owners, the incident was referred to the Stewards Advisory Committee.

**Zanzi Win** fell at the next to last hurdle, was not able to get up, and was euthanized on the course. Archie Macauley was examined by the course physician and was cleared to ride.

**Go Get The Basil** cleared the next to last hurdle but was brought down after colliding with the faller **Zanzi Win**. Bernard Dalton was examined by the Course Physician and cleared to ride.

#### **Race 5:**

**Just A Whim** fell at the last fence, did not get up and was euthanized on the course. Tom Garner was not cleared to ride and was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

**Belay and Oceanographer** were pulled up and reported to have tired.

#### **Race 6:**

At the conclusion of the fifth race the Stewards made the decision to remove the last fence (fence #2) to try to mitigate the numerous falls that had occurred throughout the day. The fence was removed and races 6 and 7 were run with 6 fences per circuit.

**Westerland and Boyfriend Brian** fell at the newly created last fence. Both horses got up and did not appear to be injured. Gerard Galligan was cleared to ride. Daren Nagle was transported to the medical tent in an ambulance and although he appeared to be injured it was reported that he was cleared to ride.

#### **Official Comments:**

At the end of the day the starter, Jeff Teter, recommended that next year the starts for the hurdle races be moved to the same area designated for the start of the timber races. Jeff said that with full fields the current area is tight and difficult to maneuver a full field. Changing the start would add additional distance to the race making it approximately 2 3/8 miles

On November 3, a virtual training meeting was conducted for all Patrol Judges and Jump Marshalls to review the responsibilities for patrol judges and the proper procedure for conducting a wave around and closing a fence. Numerous videos were presented on both topics. It is suggested that this training be conducted each year.

The race committee is to be congratulated on their efforts to put on the race meet and putting in place all the procedures and safeguards to enable patrons to attend in a safe environment. The turf on the racecourse was in excellent condition and the clerk of the course is to be congratulated on providing lush turf.

It is recommended that the safety committee create a task force to determine what can be done to mitigate the numerous falls that occurred at the last two fences.

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Dwight Hall