

ACEY-DEUCY – a riding style in which the jockey uses a longer stirrup on the left or inside leg

ACROSS THE BOARD – a bet on a horse to win, place and show

ACTION – describes a horse's manner of movement

ADDED MONEY – money added to the purse of a race through nomination fees, starting or entry fees, by the racing association or by a breeding or other fund

ALL OUT – when a horse extends himself to the utmost

ALLOWANCE RACE – a race other than claiming for which the racing secretary drafts certain conditions to determine weights – for higher caliber horses

ALLOWANCES – weight permitted to be reduced because of the conditions of the race, by age or by sex or because an apprentice is on a horse

ALSO-ELIGIBLE (AE) – a horse officially entered in a race, but not permitted to start unless the field is reduced by scratches below a specified number

ALSO-RAN – a horse who finishes out of the money

APPRENTICE – rider just beginning his/her career who has not ridden a certain number of winners within a specified period of time. Also known as a bug boy.

APPRENTICE ALLOWANCE – weight concession to an apprentice rider to compensate for their inexperience: usually 10 pounds until the fifth winner, seven pounds until the 35th winner and five pounds for one calendar year from the 35th winner

ASTERISK (*) – used beside a jockey's name in the program to indicate an apprentice. One asterisk = 5 lbs. allowance. Two asterisks = 7 lbs. Three asterisks = 10 lbs.

BABY RACE – a race exclusively for two-year-olds

BACKSIDE – stable area also called the backstretch

BACKSTRETCH – straightaway on the far side of track between the turns. Also entire stable area.

"BAD DOER" – a horse with a poor appetite. May be due to anxiety or other digestive problems.

BALK – refusing to break from the starting gate. If the horse does this more than once, the stewards can refuse the entry of the horse into a race until they are satisfied that the horse has been properly trained to come out of the gate.

BANDAGE – strips of cloth wound over padding around the lower part of a horse's legs for support or protection against injury. May be used in either a race or in a stall.

BAR SHOE – a horseshoe with a rear bar closing the two open ends to protect an injured foot

BAY (B) – a brown horse with a black mane, tail nose and lower legs. Can range from light brown to dark.

BEARING IN (OR OUT) – deviating from a straight course

BIT – metal bar that fits in a horse's mouth and is attached to the reins for control

BLACK (Bl.) – a very dark brown horse. A true black horse has no brown hairs in muzzle area

BLACK TYPE – designation for a stakes winner or stakes-placed horse in a sales catalogue – tends to increase a horse's value

BLANKET FINISH – three or more horses finishing a race so closely together they could be "covered by a blanket"

BLEEDER – a horse who bleeds from the nose during or after a workout or race due to ruptured blood vessel or tiny tear in the lungs. Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhaging (EIPH)

BLINKERS – a cloth "mask" that goes over the horse's head with lateral cups around the eyes to limit a horse's peripheral vision. Helps focus the horse and prevent distraction and must be declared as part of the equipment on the horse when it races.

BLOWOUT – a short, quick, timed workout, usually a day or two before a race

BOARD – totalisator board in the infield on which odds, betting pools and other information is displayed

BOBBLE – a bad step usually coming out of the starting gate evidenced by a horse ducking its head or nearly going to its knees

BOLT – sudden veering from a straight course

BOTTOM LINE – thoroughbred's breeding on the female side or the bottom half of an extended pedigree diagram

BOUNCE – poor race run directly following a career-best or near-best performance

BOWED TENDON – rupture of the sheath enclosing the tendon from the knee to the fetlock joint, giving it a bowed appearance

BOXED IN – a horse that is racing on the rail/pylons and is surrounded by other horses in front, outside and behind it. The horse is held up and unable to gain a clear passage.

BREAK – 1) the start of a race. 2) to train a young horse to accept saddle, bridle, harness, rider, driver etc.

BREAKAGE – in pari-mutuel payoffs which are rounded out to a nickel or dime, those pennies that are left over. Breakage is generally split between the track and province and in some cases, breeding or other funds, in varying proportions.

BREAKDOWN – when a horse suffers an injury; lameness that prevents it from running

BREAK MAIDEN – horse or rider winning first race of a career

BREEDER – owner of dam at time foal is born

BREEDING FUND – a fund set up by many provinces to provide bonus prizes for locally-bred horses

BREEZE – working a horse at a moderate speed; less effort than “handily”

BRIDLE – the equipment that goes over a horse's head for control, consisting of the bit, headstall and the reins

BROODMARE – female horse used for breeding

BUG BOY – apprentice rider

BULLET (WORK) – the best time for the distance for a work on a given day at a track indicated on paper with a solid dot

BULL RING – small racetrack; usually less than one mile in distance

CARD – a term for a program of racing. For example, twelve races on the card simply means twelve races will be run on that particular day.

CHALK – the favourite or the most heavily bet horse in a race

CHART – statistical “picture” of a race from which past performances are compiled. Shows the position and margin of each horse at designated points of call, age, weight carried, owner, trainer, purse, odds, payoffs, times and other data.

CHECKED – when, during a race, a jockey or driver has to slow or stop the motion of his horse due to close quarters or interference

CHESTNUT – the light reddish-brown to golden orange colour of a horse with no black points. Mane and tail are usually of matching colour.

CHUTE – a straight extension of the racetrack at the head of either the back or home stretches so that races do not have to start on a turn

CLAIMING – buying a horse out of a race for the entered price

CLAIMING RACE – race in which all horses entered are subject to being claimed or purchased for a specified price regardless of where they finish. The horse goes to the new owner but any purse money won goes to the former owner.

CLASSIC – race of traditional importance

CLERK OF SCALES – an official whose chief duty is to weigh the riders before and after a race to be sure proper weight is carried

CLOCKER – one who times workouts and races

CLOSER – a horse who runs best in the latter part of the race, coming from off the pace

CLUBHOUSE TURN – generally, the first turn after the finish line, closest to the Clubhouse end of the grandstand

COLOURS – the colourful shirt and cap cover worn by a jockey which signifies the owner or stable of the horse they are riding - silks

COLT – male horse under five years of age (thoroughbreds) or under four years of age (standardbreds)

CONDITION BOOK – book issued by racing secretary which sets the conditions of races to be run

CONDITION RACE – a race with conditions limiting it to a certain class of horse based on age, sex, money won or races won. Example: Fillies, three-year-olds, non-winners of two races other than maiden or claiming etc.

CONTRACT RIDER – jockey riding under contract to a stable

COUPLED – two or more horses running as an entry in a single betting unit

COVER – when a horse runs behind another horse moving on the outside of the field, it faces less wind resistance (i.e. it is racing with cover)

CUPPY (TRACK) – a surface which breaks away under a horse's hoof

CUSHION – surface of track or a layer of the track

DAILY DOUBLE – type of wager calling for the selection of the winners of the first and second races on the card

DAM – the mother of the horse

DEAD-HEAT – two or more horses finishing in an exact tie at the wire

DEAD TRACK – racing surface lacking resiliency

DISQUALIFICATION – change of order of finish by officials for an infraction of the rules

DISTAFF (DISTAFF RACE) – female; a race for fillies, mares, or both

DISTANCED – well beaten, finishing a great distance behind the winner

DQ – disqualified

DRIVING – strong urging by rider or driver

DROPDOWN – a horse facing a lower class of rivals than he had been running against

EASED – chart caller's assessment of a horse that is being deliberately slowed by the jockey or driver to prevent injury or harm to the horse

EASILY – running or winning without being pressed by rider/driver or opposition

EIGHTH – a furlong; 220 yards; 660 feet, 1/8 of a mile

ELIGIBLE – qualified to start in a race, according to conditions

ENTRY – two or more horses owned by the same stable or (in some cases) trained by the same trainer and thus running as a single betting unit

EQUIPMENT – whip, blinkers, etc. Gear worn by a horse, jockey or driver in a race.

EQUIVALENT ODDS – mutuel price horses pay for each \$1 bet

EVENLY – neither gaining nor losing position nor distance during a race

EXACTOR – a wager in which the first two finishers in a race, in exact order of finish, must be picked

EXERCISE RIDER – male or female rider who is aboard a horse for morning workouts

EXOTIC BET – a wager on a race that is something other than win, place or show

EXTENDED – forced to run at top speed

EXTRA WEIGHT (ADDED WEIGHT) – more weight than conditions of race require

FALTERED – a term used for a horse that was in contention early and drops back in the late stages. It is more drastic than weakened but less drastic than stopped.

FALSE FAVOURITE – a horse who is bet down to favouritism when others would appear to outclass him on form

FAST TRACK – footing at its best; dry, fast and even

FAVOURITE – the horse that has the most money bet on it to win

FIELD – the horses in a race

FIELD HORSE (or MUTUEL FIELD) – two or more starters running as a single betting unit, when there are more entrants than the totalisator board can accommodate

FILLY – a female horse up to and including the age of 4 (thoroughbred) and up to and including the age of 3 (standardbreds)

FIRM – a turf course condition corresponding to fast on a dirt track

FIRST OVER – in harness racing, the first horse to challenge the leader in a race, moving up on the outside

FLATTEN OUT – when a horse drops its head almost on a straight line with its body. May indicate exhaustion.

FOAL – newly born horse until it is weaned. Male or female

FOUR FURLONGS – half a mile; 880 yards; 2,640 feet

FRACTIONAL TIME – intermediate time recorded in a race, as at the quarter, half, three-quarters, etc.

FREE-LEGGED – a pacer which races without hobbles

FRESH (FRESHENED) – a rested horse

FRONT RUNNER – a horse who usually leads (or tries to lead) the field

FURLONG – one-eighth of a mile; 220 yards; 660 feet

GAIT – the ways in which a horse can move - walk, trot, pace, canter, gallop, run, etc.

GALLOP – a four-beat gait, faster than a canter. Also, to ride a horse at that gait, as in to “gallop a horse”

GATE – the starting mechanism which thoroughbreds break out of at the start of a race or which standardbreds race behind to line them up for the beginning of a race

GELDING – a castrated male horse of any age

GET – progeny of sire

GOING – term used to describe the condition of the track – fast, muddy, firm, yielding, etc.

GOING AWAY – to win while increasing lead – drawing away

GOOD BOTTOM – track that is firm under the surface, which may be sloppy or wet

GOOD TRACK – condition between fast and slow

GRADED RACE – races designated as the most prestigious in Canada and the United States (Grade I, Grade II, Grade III)

GRADUATE – winning at a class and moving up

GREY – a horse whose colouring is a mixture of white and black hairs. The mane and tail can be of darker or lighter colours.

GROOM – licensed handler responsible for the daily care of one or more race horses

GROUP RACE – European equivalent to graded races

HALF – half a mile, four furlongs; 880 yards; 2,640 feet

HALF SISTER or HALF BROTHER – horses born of the same dam but by different sires

HALTER – part of a horse's equipment that is placed over its head much like a bridle but without a bit. Aids in handling and control.

HAND – four inches. Unit used in measuring height of a horse from withers to ground.

HANDICAP – a race where a handicapper assigns weights to be carried by the horse to help level out the winning potential of all entries in the field. Also, to handicap a race, to make selections on the basis of the past performances.

HANDICAPPER – one who assigns weights. Also one who makes selections on past performances.

HANDILY – working or racing with moderate effort, but more effort than breezing

HANDLE – amount of money wagered in the pari-mutuel pool on a race, a program, a meeting or a year

HAND RIDE – a jockey urging a horse with the hands and not using the whip

HARNESS – the gear that attaches the sulky to the horse

HEAD – a margin between the horses. One horse leading another by the length of his head.

HEAD OF THE STRETCH – beginning of the stretch run home

HEAVY – the condition of a track similar to, but even slower than, muddy

HOME BRED – horse bred by his owner

HOME STRETCH – the stretch of track from the final turn to the finish line

HOPPLES – the straps that connect the horse's front legs with its rear legs. These help the horse maintain the correct gait.

HORSE – an entire male five years old or older (thoroughbred) or four years of age or older (standardbred)

HOT WALKER – a person who walks a horse after training or racing to cool it out, gives it drinks of water and brings its system back to normal

HUNG – a horse tiring, but holding position

IN FOAL – a pregnant mare

IN THE MONEY – finishing first, second or third

IN HAND – running under moderate control, at less than best pace

IMPOST – weight carried or assigned

INQUIRY – stewards or judges reviewing the race to check into a possible infraction of the rules

IRONS – stirrups

JAIL – refers to the first month a claimed horse is in a new barn whereby racing rules require it to be entered at a claiming price above that which it was claimed

JOCKEY – the person who rides a horse in a race

JOCKEY AGENT – one who secures riding assignments for a jockey in return for a percentage of the jockey's earnings

JOCKEY FEE – base sum paid to a rider for riding a race

JOG – slow, easy trot

JOURNEYMAN – licensed jockey who has completed his/her apprenticeship

JUDGES – officials of a standardbred meet responsible for enforcing the rules

JUVENILE – a two-year-old horse

LASIX – a diuretic medication given to a horse four hours prior to a race to help control bleeding in the lungs caused by exertion

LATE DOUBLE – a second daily double offered on the final two races of the card

LEAD PAD – saddle pad with pockets to hold lead weights; inserted to bring jockey up to assigned weight

LEAD PONY – horse or pony who heads parade of field from paddock to starting gate. Also a horse or pony who accompanies a starter to post.

LEG UP – to help a jockey mount his horse

LENGTH – length of a horse from nose to tail, about 8 feet. Also distance between horses in a race.

LINE BREEDING – mating horses having a common ancestor to accentuate a certain feature

LOCK – slang for a "sure thing" winner

LUG (in or out) – action of a tiring horse, bearing in or out

LUNGE – horse rearing or plunging

MAIDEN – a horse who has not won a race. Also applied to a non-winning rider.

MAIDEN RACE – a race for non-winners

MARE – female horse five years old or older (thoroughbred) or four years old or older (standardbred). Also, female horse of any age who has been bred.

MEDICATION LIST – a list kept by the track veterinarian and published by the track and Daily Racing Form indicating the time period in which the medication can be administered prior to a race

MIDDLE DISTANCE – broadly, from one mile to less than a mile and an eighth

MINUS POOL – a mutuel pool caused when one horse is so heavily wagered on, that after deductions of provincial tax and commission, there is not enough money left to pay the legally prescribed minimum on each winning bet

MORNING GLORY – a horse who performs well in morning workouts but fails to reproduce that form in races

MORNING LINE – the track handicapper's estimate of the probable odds in a race that are predicted before wagering begins

MUDDY TRACK – deep condition of racetrack after being soaked with water

MUDDER – horse that races well on muddy tracks

MUTUELS – window or line of windows for wagering or cashing in a winning ticket

NEAR SIDE – left side of a horse; the side on which it is mounted

NECK – a unit of measurement; less than a quarter of a length but more than a head

NOD – lowering of head; winning in that manner

NOSE – smallest advantage a horse can win by

OAKS – stakes events for top three-year-old fillies

OBJECTION – claim of foul lodged by a rider

ODDS-ON – odds of less than even money

OFFICIAL – sign displayed when race result is confirmed. Also racing official.

OFF SIDE – the right hand side of a horse

OFF TRACK – an off track refers to a wet racing surface. Also a betting establishment that is away from the race track.

ON THE BOARD – finishing among the first four

ON THE NOSE – betting a horse to win only

OPTIONAL CLAIMING RACE – a race in which horses may be entered for a specified claiming price for a reduction in assigned weight

OUTRIDER – an official on a lead pony who leads the horses onto the track and up to the gate. Also there to assist with problem horses and catch loose horses.

OVERLAY – a horse going off at a higher price than he appears to warrant based on his past performances

OVERNIGHT – listing of race entries prior to race day publication

OVERNIGHT RACE – a race in which entries close a specific number of hours before running (such as 48 hours) as opposed to a stakes race for which nominations close weeks and sometimes months in advance

OVERWEIGHT – extra weight carried by a horse when the rider cannot make the required weight

PACE – a two-beat gait where the front and hind legs on the same side of the horse's body, move in unison. Also, the tempo set by the leaders in the early or middle stages of a race.

PADDOCK – the area where horses are saddled

PADDOCK JUDGE – official in charge of the paddock and saddling routine

PARIMUTUEL – a form of wagering that originated in France in which all money bet is divided up among those who have winning tickets, after taxes, takeout and other deductions are made

PARKED OUT – in a harness race, when a horse can't get a spot along the inside rail and is forced to run outside

PAST PERFORMANCES – a compilation of a horse's racing record, including all pertinent data, used as a basis for handicapping

PATROL JUDGES – officials who observe the progress of a race from various vantage points around the track

PHOTO FINISH – a result so close it is necessary for stewards or judges to examine a photo taken by a finish-line camera to determine order of finish

PLACE – second position at finish

PLACE BET – wager on a horse to finish first or second

PLACING JUDGES – officials who determine the order in which the horses reached the finish line

PLATES – the shoes a horse wears in a race

POCKET – boxed in, shut off. Running in a position with horses in front and alongside.

POLE – markers at measured distances around the track, marking the distance from the finish. The quarter pole, for instance, is a quarter of a mile from the finish, not from the start.

POOL (mutuel pool) – total sum wagered

POST – starting point or position in the starting gate. The time a race will begin.

POST PARADE – horses going from paddock to starting gate past the stands

POST POSITION – position of stall in starting gate from which a horse starts

POST TIME – designated time for a race to begin

PREP (or PREP RACE) – a workout or a race to prepare a horse for a future engagement

PUBLIC TRAINER – a trainer who trains for more than one owner

PURSE – the total amount of prize money that can be won in a race

QUALIFIER – a race where a harness horse must contest a mile, below an established time standard, to prove itself capable of competing in pari-mutuel races

QUARTER – one-quarter of a mile; 440 yards; 1,320 feet

QUARTER POLE – a marker, painted with red and white horizontal stripes, one-quarter mile from the finish

QUINELLA – a wager in which the first two finishers must be picked in either order

RABBIT – a horse that is considered to have little chance of winning a race but is entered purely to ensure a fast pace, softening up the competition for the benefit of the entry mate

RACING SECRETARY – official who drafts conditions of races and assigns weights for handicap events

RAIL – barrier or railing running around the entire inside and outside perimeter of the race course

RAIL RUNNER – horse that prefers to run next to inside rail

RECEIVING BARN – horses entered are isolated here for a certain period before a race

RESERVED – held off the pace

RIDDEN OUT – refers to a horse that wins under a vigorous hand ride but is not being whipped

RIDGLING – a male horse with only one testicle or has only one testicle that has descended

ROMP – running (or winning) with utmost ease

ROUTE – race distance of a mile and one-sixteenth or longer

ROUTER – horse who performs well at distance races

RUNDOWN BANDAGES (or WRAPS) – bandages on the horse's legs to add support and protection so that it does not scrape its heels and ankles when racing

SADDLE – the piece of equipment attached to a horse's back by a girth to hold the stirrups and in which the jockey sits

SADDLE CLOTH – a cloth under the saddle on which a horse's wagering number is displayed

SCALE OF WEIGHTS – fixed imposts to be carried by horses in a race according to age, distance, sex, and time of year

SCRATCH – to be removed from the entries or taken out of a race

SECOND CALL – a second engagement of a jockey who already is listed for a mount in a race. He will ride the second horse if the first is scratched.

SET DOWN – a suspension. Also, put to a drive, or asked to run by the jockey/driver.

SEVEN FURLONGS – seven-eighths of a mile; 1,540 yards; 4,620 feet

SEX ALLOWANCE – fillies and mares, according to their age and time of year, are allowed to carry less weight when meeting males

SHADOW ROLL – thick noseband attached to the bridle used to prevent the horse from seeing shadows on the ground that may cause it to jump or shy away

SHANK – length of leather attached to a bridle or halter to lead a horse

SHEDROW – stable area or row of barns

SHOW – third position at the finish

SHOW BET – wager on a horse to finish in the money, third or better

SILKS – jacket and cap worn by riders which designate owner of the horse

SIX FURLONGS – three-quarters of a mile; 1,320 yards; 3,960 feet

SIXTEENTH – one-sixteenth of a mile; 110 yards, 330 feet

SLOPPY – condition of track. Wet on surface with firm bottom.

SLOW – footing that is not fast, between good and heavy

SOLID HORSE – contender

SOPHOMORE – three-year-old horse

SOUND – free of physical problems

SPRINT – short race 7 furlongs or less

STAKES-PLACED – finishing first, second or third in a stakes race

STAKE – a race for which the owner must pay a fee to run his horse. Usually attracts the best horses due to the large purse. Some stakes races are by invitation and require no payment or fee.

STAKES HORSE – one capable of competing in such events

STALLION – entire male horse

STARTER – the person who drives the mobile starting gate at the beginning of a harness race or the person on a stand in front of the gate who releases the doors to start a thoroughbred race

STARTER RACE – an allowance or handicap race restricted to horses that have started for a specific claiming price or less

STARTING GATE – a mechanical device having partitions (stalls) for thoroughbred horses in which they are confined until the starter releases the doors in front to begin the race. A car with winged gates attached at the back behind which the harness horses, in motion, line up. The car draws away and the wings close up when the race has started.

STAYER – horse capable of running long distances

STEADIED – a horse being taken in hand by his rider, usually because of being in close quarters

STEPS UP – a horse moving up in class

STEWARDS – officials of the thoroughbred meeting responsible for enforcing the rules

STRETCH – final straight portion of the racetrack to the finish

STRETCH CALL – position of horses at the eighth pole, usually about halfway down the stretch

STRETCH RUNNER – a horse who makes a fast run towards the lead nearing the end of a race

STRETCH TURN – bend of track into homestretch

STRIDE – manner of going. Also distance covered after each foot has touched the ground once.

STUD – male horse used for breeding

STUD BOOK – registry and genealogical record of the breeding of Thoroughbreds maintained by the Jockey Club

SUBSCRIPTION – fee paid by owner to nominate horse for a stakes race or to maintain eligibility for a stakes race

SULKY – the cart that a driver sits in behind the horse during a race

SUSPEND (or SUSPENSION) – a punishment for infraction of rules

TACK – all equipment put on a horse for training or racing

TAKE (or TAKEOUT) – a commission deducted from pari-mutuel pools

TAKEN UP - a horse pulled up sharply by his jockey

TATOO – all thoroughbred horses to race have a registration number tattooed on the inside of their upper lip for identification. It consists of one letter and five numbers with the letter being the same for all horses born that year.

TONGUE TIE – a cotton band tied around a horse's tongue and jaw to keep the bit above the tongue and to prevent the tongue obstructing air passages during a race

TOPWEIGHT – highest weight assigned or carried in a race

TOTALISATOR – a machine which sells and records wagering tickets and shows odds; also figures out and displays payoffs

TOUT – one who gives tips on racehorses

TRACK BIAS – a racing surface that favours a particular running style or post position

TRACK RECORD – fastest time at various distances recorded at a particular track

TRIAL – workout

TRIACTOR – a wager picking the first three finishers in exact order

TRIP – an individual horse's performance in a race

TRIPLE CROWN – in Canada, the Triple Crown consists of the Queen's Plate, Prince of Wales Stakes and the Breeders' Stakes. In the United States it consists of the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and The Belmont.

TROT – a two-beat gait where the diagonally opposite front and hind legs move in unison

TURF COURSE – grass course

UNDERLAY – a horse going off at a lower price than he appears to warrant based on his past performances

UNDER WRAPS – horse under stout restraint in a race or workout

UNTRIED – an unraced horse or one that has never had to exert itself winning a race

VALET – a jockey's assistant, employed by the racing association to clean and care for a jockey's tack and other riding equipment. They also assist trainers in saddling their horses.

WALKOVER – a race which scratches down to only one starter who merely gallops the required distance

WARMING UP – the galloping of a thoroughbred horse or the driving of a standardbred horse prior to a race to prepare the horse to run

WASHY – a horse breaking out in a nervous sweat

WEANLING – a foal that is less than one-year-old that has been separated from its dam

WEIGHT – the combined weight of jockey and gear assigned for each race

WEIGHT-FOR-AGE – a fixed scale of weights to be carried by horses according to age, sex, distance of race and time of year

WIND – the term used to indicate a horse's capacity for breath, thus its endurance

WINDED – breathing with difficulty after workout or race

WINNER-TAKES-ALL – a winner receiving all the purse or stakes

WORK – to exercise a horse at a faster pace at a timed distance

YEARLING – a thoroughbred or standardbred between the first New Year's Day after being foaled and the following January 1 in the Northern Hemisphere

YIELDING – a turf course condition corresponding to slow on a dirt track