

WHAT IS THE NEW YORK STATE ENTRY/STARTING FEE?

Legislation enacted in April 2009 (Chapter 59 of the Laws of New York State 2009) added a new section 112 to the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law in relation to the imposition of a fee based on the start of a horse in a New York pari-mutuel race. Section 112 was effective May 7, 2009. (Section was changed to 115-a effective February 1, 2013.)

Section 115-a requires the assessment and payment of a fee in the amount of ten dollars (\$10) based upon the start of a horse in a New York pari-mutuel race. The statute imposes an obligation on every corporation authorized to conduct pari-mutuel racing to collect the fee from the owner at the time of entry. The fee is refundable in the event the horse does not start. The fee is not applied for a Non-Betting Race.

100% of this fee is paid to the New York State Racing and Wagering Board.

In an effort to avoid delays and confusion in the paddock at race time, most New York State tracks chose to charge the \$10 start fee against an owner's purse winning account and deduct the fee when a check was sent to the owner.

However, if the horse did not finish "in the money" there were no purse winnings to collect the fee. The NYS Start fee is still owed and payment shall be made to Buffalo Raceway.

In an industry letter, the NYS Racing and Wagering Board has advised us to notify them in all instances where an owner fails to pay outstanding start fees:

Pari-Mutuel Race Start Fee – May 5, 2009:

5. All instances of lack of payment by an owner to the Horsemen Association Bookkeeper, or of any returned (bounced) checks for Start Fees should be immediately brought to the attention of the Board's Presiding Judge or Steward.