



NSA Official Notices

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Ground Conditions Force Cancellation of 2024 Steeplechase of Charleston presented by Lexus

(Hollywood, SC) – Out of deep concern for the safety of our equine and human athletes, Steeplechase of Charleston presented by Lexus, announces the cancellation of this year's event originally scheduled for Sunday, November 10, 2024, at Stono Ferry Racetrack in Hollywood, SC.

The prolonged drought in our region has left the ground overly hard, dry and lacking suitable turf creating dangerous ground conditions for racing, making this decision necessary for the safety and welfare of both horse and jockey. This determination was reached mutually with the National Steeplechase Association (NSA) and follows similar safety-driven decisions at two other major NSA-sanctioned events this season in Pennsylvania and Virginia, reflecting our sport's unwavering commitment to safety.

"The safety of our horses and jockeys must always come first," said Race Director Toby Edwards. "After consulting with the NSA, we collectively determined that current ground conditions don't meet the standards required for premier steeplechase racing."

This season's challenges highlight the importance of advanced racing infrastructure in our sport. As stewards of Charleston's storied equestrian tradition, the Steeplechase of Charleston has been actively exploring opportunities to develop a world-class facility in the Charleston region with comprehensive irrigation systems. Such facilities would not only protect against weather variables but also preserve and honor the Lowcountry's rich racing culture - a legacy that has been an integral part of Charleston's cultural fabric for centuries.

"While this cancellation is deeply disappointing for our entire community, it reinforces our commitment to establishing Charleston as the premier destination for fall steeplechase racing," said Chris Zoeller, Executive Director. "The spirit of this event has endured since 1734, and we are dedicated to creating an experience that will showcase the very best of our sport for generations to come."

"This decision affects our entire steeplechase family - from our dedicated horsemen to our passionate spectators," said Zoeller. "The commitment of our owners, trainers, jockeys, and stable staff, along with the enthusiasm of our sponsors, merchants, partners and of course our fans, has made this event a cherished Lowcountry tradition. With such strong community support, we are dedicated to creating an experience that will showcase the very best of our sport for generations to come."

Ticket holders will have the option to request a full refund, transfer their ticket to the 2025 event, or convert their purchase into a tax-deductible donation to Steeplechase of Charleston. All ticket holders will be contacted by email in the coming days with more details.

The event is organized by Steeplechase of Charleston LLC, a 501c3 non-profit company owned by The Post and Courier Foundation, with proceeds supporting community journalism in South Carolina.

For additional information, please contact info@steeplechaseofcharleston.com.