



## NSA Official Notices

### Monday, March 16, 2026

#### Message From the Stewards Advisory Committee

The Stewards Advisory Committee wishes to remind horsemen that there may be a random search/searches at each NSA race meet this spring. The search, based on NSA Rules of Racing (6.1.C. Consent to Search and Seizure), will be conducted by the NSA Safety Steward and will include an inspection of assigned stalls, tack boxes, trucks and trailers, and any personal property on Association Grounds during the Race Period.

#### Revised Rules and Policies

##### Rule 7.7.F. Horse Leaving the Racecourse

###### Original Rule

2. If a horse leaves the prescribed racecourse of a race and jumps any fence or goes around any beacon or other obstacle other than those on the prescribed racecourse, ~~it must turn back and resume the race from the point at which it originally left the prescribed racecourse, or be disqualified~~, unless it is determined by the Stewards that there was a safety issue involved. A rider who continues in a race on a horse thus disqualified may be fined or suspended, or both.

###### Revised Rule

2. If a horse leaves the prescribed racecourse of a race and jumps any fence or goes around any beacon or other obstacle other than those on the prescribed racecourse, such horse shall be disqualified, unless it is determined by the Stewards that there was a safety issue involved. A rider who continues in a race on a horse thus disqualified may be fined or suspended, or both.

##### Revised NSA Whip Policy

By order of the Stewards Advisory Committee, Stewards will continue to enforce the NSA Whip Policy. Stewards will remain cognizant and will abide by the six (6) strike limit and will disqualify a horse for ten (10) strikes or more.

As it relates to penalty, a violation of the NSA Whip Policy now will result in a \$500 fine for more than six (6) strikes, with no suspension for a first offense. For a second offense there will be a \$1,000 fine; and a third offense will be a \$1,500 fine plus a one (1) day suspension. In the case of a ten (10) strikes or greater violation, the Stewards will have the discretion to fine and/or suspend the rider. Offenses are cumulative within the calendar year.

Please see the NSA Rules of Racing 7.7.E. Use of Whips for further details.

##### Weight Changes

All weights in hurdle races have been increased by two pounds on the Scale Of Weights. Also, the minimum weight in all ratings handicap races has been increased from 140 lbs to 144 lbs.

**NSA Amateur Rider Policy**  
**By Order Of The Board Of Directors**

*To preserve the spirit and tradition of steeplechase racing in America as a sport rooted in horsemanship, sportsmanship, community, and a passion for timber racing, the following standards define who may ride as an amateur under the rules and regulations of the National Steeplechase Association.*

*Riders who sign the amateur declaration on the NSA jockey's license will be eligible for standard jockey fees (\$200 or 10% of purse money earned, whichever is greater) in races restricted to amateurs.*

*However, riders holding an NSA amateur license who ride in an "open" NSA race (with professional riders) will not be entitled to any jockey fees in that race. Those rider fees will be directed to a separate fund, within the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation, for the specific use of supporting amateur and/or apprentice rider races. Note: In the case of an owner/rider in an "open" NSA race, jockey fees will not be directed to the TGSF.*

*It will be the responsibility of NSA owners to comply with these amateur rules and regulations.*

*Should an amateur rider decide to forfeit his amateur license and apply for a professional license, they will be ineligible to apply for an amateur license for two (2) years after their last professional ride.*

*Starting in 2027, any rider who declares as an amateur will not be allowed to change their license status to professional until the end of the calendar year.*

**Purpose:** This policy preserves the integrity of amateur status while expanding opportunity and creating a uniform national standard. Amateur riders participate in steeplechase racing as a sporting avocation, not as a profession. This policy reinforces that principle.

**Overview:** This policy allows amateurs earning standard jockey fees to offset the cost of participation while maintaining their non-professional status. Amateurs forfeiting their standard jockey fees in open races will allow the TGSF to expand amateur riding opportunities, support amateur development initiatives and strengthen the future of amateur steeplechase racing.

**Consistency:** This policy matters in that it establishes a clear definition of amateur status. It also creates one clear rule, consistent application across all race meets, and elimination of inconsistent, race-by-race approaches. This policy is also a reinvestment in the future of amateur racing as funds directed to TGSF will be utilized by development programs, increased participation pathways and enhanced purses in amateur races.