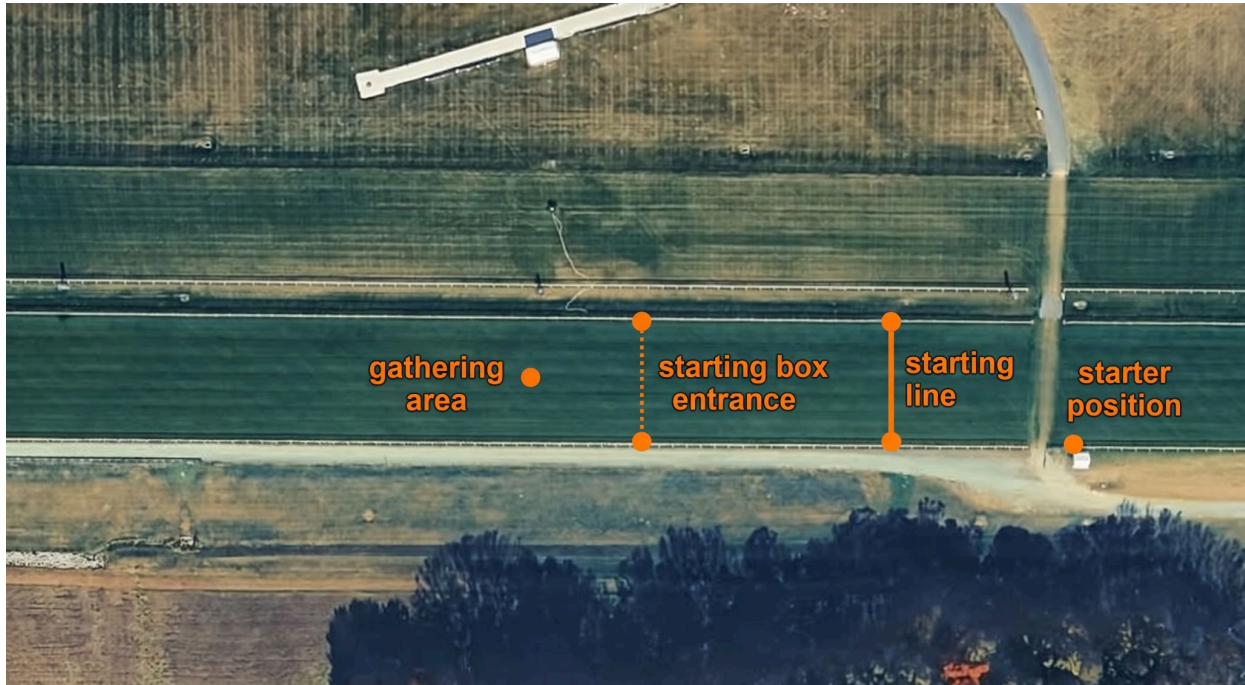


NSA “Walk-Up” Starting Procedures and Protocol

1. All NSA non-pari-mutuel races will be conducted with a **WALK-UP** start*
2. The **STARTING BOX** (see example below) will be the full width of the racecourse and will be no less than 20 yards in depth and no more than 40 yards in depth, marked by high visibility cones at each corner
3. The starter will establish a designated **GATHERING AREA** no less than 10 yards and no more than 20 yards from the entrance side of the starting box
4. All runners, after warming up, will promptly arrive at the gathering area once dispatched from the paddock area
5. The starter shall notify the runners to proceed to the starting box by raising his flag and calling the runners to move to the starting box
6. The starter, upon raising his flag, will be no less than 20 yards and no more than 40 yards from the exit side of the starting box
7. No outrider or starting assistant will be permitted in the area directly between the gathering area and the starting box, once the starter has raised his flag, and must release any horse under their control
8. The starting assistant, may if necessary, follow the runners, in an effort to passively encourage any trailing horses towards the starting box
9. All runners shall approach the box at a walk
10. All runners shall be in a controlled order - **AT A WALK** - when entering the box, **WITH NO VISIBLE GAP** between runners, including but not limited to, the lead horse(s) and the trailing horse(s)
11. Once all runners have entered the starting box, the starter, at his discretion, may release the field by clearly and decisively lowering the flag
12. The only communication from jockey to starter, once the flag is raised, should be a loud and clearly defined “No” to indicate that he/she is not prepared to start
13. The only communication from the starter to the field, once the flag is raised, should be a loud and clearly defined “NO” and/or “Circle Back”
14. If there is no clear and continued communication from either a jockey(s) or the starter, then it is the understanding that a start is proceeding
15. If the starter directs the field to “Circle Back”, this will immediately be considered a recall and the field should quickly return to the gathering area.
16. Once all runners are in the starting box, and moving forward in a controlled formation to the satisfaction of the starter, he will clearly and decisively lower the flag and the race will have officially started
17. Once the race has officially started, all horses must leave the starting area promptly, and without delay.
18. If an additional attempt is required due to an unruly horse, that runner may be scratched at the request of the starter and/or by order of the stewards.
19. If a horse is scratched due to unruly behavior, that horse will be automatically placed on the NSA Starter’s List

20. If, in the opinion of the Starter or Stewards, a false start is caused by the direct actions of a jockey(s), then those jockeys involved will be referred to the Stewards Advisory Committee for review and may be subject to a fine
21. Any delay in exiting the starting box may result in a penalty to any jockey who has been found to be in breach of this policy. Likewise, any jockey who has been found to intentionally attempt to leave the starting box prior to the flag being lowered may also be subject to a penalty



**All NSA races run where pari-mutuel wagering is offered will start in numerical order. All other provisions of this policy will be in place.*