



ILLINOIS RACING BOARD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

On Thursday September 18, 2025, a regular meeting of the Illinois Racing Board was held at 555 West Monroe, Chicago, Illinois starting at 10:00 a.m. The following Board members participated: Chairman Dan Beiser, Commissioners Eddie Arroyo, Leslie Breuer, Marc Laino, Alyssa Murphy, Benjamin Reyes, Patricia Saccone, Julie Ullrich and Rocco Zuccherro. Commissioner Schmidt was absent. Staff members Domenic DiCera, Lindsay Evans, Bob Denneen, Michael Belmonte, Vitto Okoye and Donald Marquez also participated.

BOARD REQUEST

Chairman Beiser moved for approval of the following race dates and conditions for calendar year 2026. Commissioner Laino seconded the motion.

SUBURBAN DOWNS, INC. - 34 race programs and 365 total host programs from January 1 through December 31.

- Saturday, January 3rd through Sunday, February 15th, racing 2 nights per week with a post time of 7:10 PM.
- Friday, November 6th through Saturday, November 28th, racing 3 nights per week on Fridays, Saturday, and Sunday. Post time of 7:10 PM.
- Sunday, November 29th through Sunday, December 27th racing 2 nights per week on Saturdays and Sundays. Post time of 7:10 PM

After reviewing the application for organization license and after hearing testimony today from the organization licensee applicant and the respective horsemen's organization as it relates to host track status pursuant to Section 3.075 of the Illinois Horse Racing Act, the Board finds that conditions are present to allow a lesser schedule of live racing than five days per week and 9 races per day.

HAWTHORNE RACE COURSE, INC. - 63 race programs and 365 total host programs from January 1st through December 31st.

- January 1st through March 28th – dark host time. No live racing.
- March 29th through November 1st, racing 2 days a week on Sundays and Thursdays.
- Post Time of 2:40 PM.

FAIRMOUNT PARK, INC.- 57 live thoroughbred race programs with 7 races per day minimum.

- April 14th through October 27th- Racing 2 days per week on Tuesdays and Saturdays with a post time of 1:30 PM.

Section 20(e-3) of the Illinois Horse Racing Act states that the Board shall award a racetrack in Madison County, for calendar year 2020 and thereafter, racing dates and the organization licensee, Fairmount Park, shall

run at least 700 thoroughbred races. However, pursuant to Section 20 (e-4.5) of the Act, the Board may decrease the number of racing days “only if the Board determines that there is an agreement between an organization licensee and the breed association that is applicable to the involved live racing guarantee.”

The Board received a letter dated September 12, 2025 signed by Fairmount Park and the Illinois HBPA. They have agreed to 57 days of live racing with a minimum of 7 races per day.

After reviewing this letter and hearing testimony, the board agrees with the following factors and circumstances outlined in the agreement:

- 1) As of September 7, 2025, the purse account had a balance of negative \$316,007.11; and
- 2) Fairmount Park and the Illinois HBPA agree that 100 days of racing “is simply not possible for 2026.”

This motion includes the following conditions:

- 1) Conditions from the following paragraphs in the Board Order awarding thoroughbred and standardbred Racing Dates for calendar year 2025 shall be incorporated in the order awarding thoroughbred and standardbred Racing Dates for calendar year 2026: Specifically, paragraphs 39-52.
- 2) That Fairmount Park must maintain adequate security on the backstretch so as to comply with all Illinois Racing Board Administrative Rules, including but not limited to Part 1424.

The motion passed unanimously (9-0) by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Arroyo moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2025 board meeting. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0) by roll call vote.

Commissioner Saccone moved to keep the minutes of the September 19, 2024 closed session confidential. Commissioner Ullrich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0) by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:25 PM, Commissioner Saccone moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Breuer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0) by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Domenic DiCera
Executive Director