

Commonly Asked Questions Regarding the Reschedule of Kentucky Derby 146

If Churchill Downs cancels or postpones events or live racing dates, how will the company notify primary contacts and/or ticket holders?

Primary contact will be via email. Those who we cannot reach via email will be contacted via mail or phone.

Is postponing the Kentucky Derby 146 a final decision or will Churchill Downs possibly reconsider if the COVID-19 situation improves before May 2?

The decision to postpone the Kentucky Derby is final based upon CDC recommendations to cancel or postpone events through the originally scheduled date.

Why is Churchill Downs postponing the Kentucky Derby 146 as opposed to running it on May 2 without spectators (like other races)?

We believe that the Kentucky Derby is as much about the fans as it is about the race. Rescheduling the event with fans will allow us to contribute to the local and state economics impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as allow fans that consider the race a time-honored tradition the ability to still be a part of it.

Why is the Kentucky Derby 146 delayed for so long? Why not run it sooner?

Given the evolving recommendations of state and federal authorities regarding the containment of COVID-19, we wish to avoid setting a date that could potentially force another reschedule due to lingering public health concerns. Our decision was based on the collective knowledge of public health authorities.

Will it be safe to run the Kentucky Derby 146 on the new date?

Operating on the most recent recommendations of public health officials regarding COVID-19, we believe the new date allows sufficient time to alleviate social gathering concerns. Churchill Downs will continue to operate under the guidance of proper authorities to ensure that the health and safety of our guests, participants and employees remains our top priority.

Has the Kentucky Derby ever been postponed before?

Yes, in 1945. As World War II neared an end, the Allies' victory was implied but not certain. The director of the Office of War Mobilization, Jimmy Byrnes, saw horse racing as an unnecessary expenditure of resources, with able-bodied men serving as labor in track operations, countless dollars being spent betting, and gasoline and tire rubber being used heavily for Thoroughbred transportation. So on January 3, 1945, horse racing was banned. But when Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, the ban was lifted and the 71st Kentucky Derby was subsequently run on June 9, 1945.

Will Taste of Derby be rescheduled?

Yes, we anticipate that Taste of Derby will be rescheduled to align with the new dates for the Kentucky Derby. Exact date to be determined.

Will other popular race day events like Mother's Day still be taking place?

Decisions regarding the remainder of our Spring Meet will be made at a later time under the guidance of federal, state and local government and health authorities.

With special events, like weddings or conferences that were scheduled to occur on non-race days be cancelled? Will there be refunds?

We are working with individual organizers and groups on each event. If you are holding an event at Churchill Downs, please contact your account executive regarding any questions pertaining to your event or our policies.

How will group sales events be handled if the Spring Meet dates are run without spectators? Will groups get refunds or the ability to reschedule?

Should dates be canceled, all customers will be refunded and will be notified via email or automatic refund. Any questions should be directed to our sales team at (502) 636-4450.

I have an event scheduled to take place at Churchill Downs Racetrack. What do I need to know?

Please reach out directly to your Account Executive or assigned Event Manager to discuss the latest details and to go over any potential changes so you can plan accordingly.

What about my hotel, flight and other travel reservations?

Please call your hotel and airline directly to inquire about cancellations, rescheduling or refunds.

How does the postponement of Kentucky Derby 146 affect the Triple Crown?

At this time, we can only comment on the status of the Kentucky Derby, but we have been coordinating with the appropriate representatives in an attempt to properly schedule the Triple Crown.

How does this affect the Road to the Kentucky Derby?

We expect to add new Road to the Kentucky Derby races shortly. We will work with other partner tracks that operate throughout the summer and determine a path to the Derby that enables the horses in the best form to compete. Current points earned will still count towards the first Saturday in September, but details on races between now and then are yet to be determined.

How will the 2020 September and Fall Meets be impacted?

We anticipate no change to our 2020 Fall Meet. September Meet will run as planned, however, that meet will likely be shortened as a result of these additional race dates. More details on the September Meet to come.