

2023 Notice of Media Rules & Guidelines



Acceptance of a Churchill Downs media credential, which provides access to Churchill Downs in ways not available to the general public, constitutes agreement by an accredited organization and an individual to abide by rules and guidelines set forth by the Churchill Downs communications department. Churchill Downs reserves the right to revoke the credentials and on-site access privileges of any media representatives who violate this policy. In addition to the agreements within the 2023 Churchill Downs Release and Indemnification Agreement, the Churchill Downs media rules and guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Churchill Downs media credentials shall only be issued to members of the working media whose primary purpose is gathering news and disseminating it and for which other commercial activities are ancillary;
- Churchill Downs media credentials must be displayed at all times in order to enter and remain in our facility;
- Each Churchill Downs media credential is issued to, and binding on, the holder and his or her employer. The media credential may not be used by or lent or transferred to, any individual or entity other than the party to which it was directly issued;
- Media must carry and display government issued photo identification (i.e. driver's license, state photo identity cards or equivalent) to verify the validity of the media credential and its rightful owner;
- Do not alter the issued credential; official custom credential holder/sleeve and lanyards must be used as issued;
- Media credentials must be presented at all media or access entry points;
- Media with RF transmitting equipment must have proof that their equipment has been frequency coordinated (affixed with appropriate sticker) and may be asked to present their equipment for inspection;
- Media are asked to be extremely sensitive to the safety of the horses and the work schedules of horsemen while in the barn area;
- Horses always have the right of way;
- No running;
- Media are not allowed on the racing surfaces without a proper access approved by Darren Rogers, senior director of communications & media services, or another member of the Churchill Downs communications department;
- Media are not allowed in the shedrows, offices or tack rooms of any barn unless invited by the trainer in that barn;
- Media are not allowed into the Jockey's Quarters unless permitted by Darren Rogers, senior director of communications & media services, or another member of the Churchill Downs communications department;
- Only photographers and videographers are permitted in the Trackside Winner's Circle during presentations; all other media are asked to remain in the Winner's Circle walkway until all presentations are complete;
- Media unfamiliar with Churchill Downs may be guided around the facility before unaccompanied access is allowed;
- Media are asked to respect the work environment of their colleagues, especially in the Media Center;
- Misuse of media credentials, failure to abide by the terms of the credentials, disorderly conduct and/or failure to comply with security measures will subject the credential holder to, among other things, ejection from the facility and to cancellation or revocation of current or future credentials;
- Churchill Downs reserves the right to revoke credentials at any time.

PHOTOGRAPHY: In addition to the 2023 Notice of Media Rules & Guidelines, the following rules for photography must be observed at all times. The Churchill Downs photography rules and guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Photographers with a media credential must use professional equipment;
- Flash photography is strictly prohibited;
- No flash attachments or lights are permitted near the horses, barns or racetrack;
- Photographers are expected to shoot from their assigned racetrack locations; roving photography is not permitted on the racetrack surface;
- Photographers are not allowed on the racing surfaces during training hours at any time;
- Photographers who have obtained racetrack access during live racing may cross the track only at the paddock runway and only before the racetrack is harrowed by the track maintenance crew;
- Once the race is complete, all photographers who have obtained racetrack access during live racing may not cross the racetrack until after all horses have returned and ONLY at the paddock runway. Any credential holder who crosses the track at another location will subject the credential holder to, among other things, ejection from the facility and to cancellation or revocation of current or future credentials;
- All photographers must be seated or kneeling during a race and remain in their location until all horses have cleared the area;
- Photo equipment may be stored in the “pit” area on the inside rail past the finish line or in other areas you may be informed of at the photographers’ Rules and Position Marking Meeting;
- All photographers using any RF transmission devices must be approved and stickered by the Event Frequency Coordinator (See “Frequency Coordination” for more information);
- Only select, pre-approved major media outlets will be permitted teams of photographers, contingent on distribution and the volume of event coverage; all other media outlets will be granted up to two credentials (no runners), one work station (if requested) and will not receive access to remote camera locations.

TELEVISION: In addition to the 2023 Notice of Media Rules & Guidelines, the following rules for video must be observed at all times. The Churchill Downs television/broadcast rules and guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Television lights may be used on a limited basis near the Jim Bolus Memorial Backstretch Press Center or First Turn Auxiliary TV Compound. However, television crews must consult with Darren Rogers, senior director of communications & media services, regarding the specifics, who, in turn, will consult with Churchill Downs’ outriders and Kentucky Racing Commission stewards;
- Any affiliate TV stations, video crews, radio stations, photographers or other media using any transmission devices must be approved and stickered by the Event Frequency Coordinator. Operator is responsible for compliance, and may be asked to present equipment for inspection. (See “Frequency Coordination” for more information)

LIVE TRANSMISSIONS: In addition to the 2023 Notice of Media Rules & Guidelines, there are rules and restrictions for live transmissions of audio and video by all non-rights holders. Those rules are contained with the 2023 Churchill Downs Video/Audio Guidelines document (available at www.KentuckyDerby.com/Media).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please visit the Kentucky Derby Online Media Center at www.KentuckyDerby.com/Media for additional media event information from the Churchill Downs communications department, including credential access points; still and remote camera and broadcast locations; video and audio restrictions; telephone and Internet services; frequency coordination; preferred vendors; facilities schedules and maps; parking and shuttle service; complementary food and beverage; hotel listings; and hospitality and security procedures.

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