

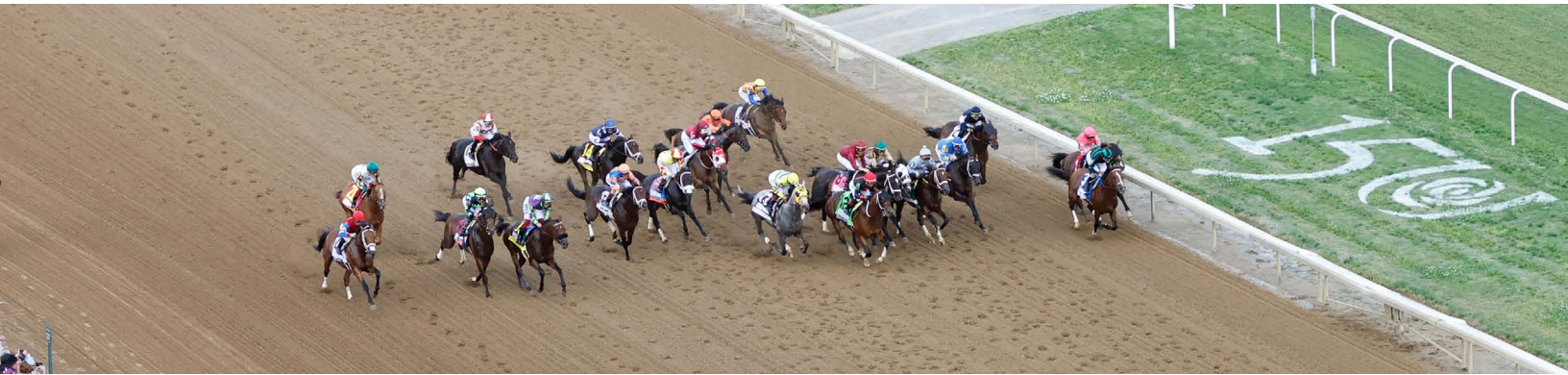
# *2025 Safety from Start to Finish*



Churchill Downs Incorporated ("CDI") established the "Safety from Start to Finish" program in March 2009 to formalize its comprehensive approach to continual improvement of the health and safety protocols and policies for horses and humans who work, train, compete and attend racing events at Churchill Downs Racetrack ("Churchill Downs"). Since that time, the program has expanded and evolved to address and emphasize new initiatives each year while maintaining a focus on the measures that have facilitated over 150 years of racing integrity and excellence.

Churchill Downs, Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation ("KHRGC") and Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority ("HISA") collectively create, mandate and implement policies and protocols for horses competing in the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) and Longines Kentucky Oaks (Grade I).

Each year Churchill Downs reviews and updates our safety protocols to ensure we raise the bar for industry best practices. Churchill Downs is again committed to implementing the highest standard of protocols for the welfare and safety of all participant and the integrity of our sport as outlined in the Safety from Start to Finish Program for 2025.



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Surface Management:** Churchill Downs in-house turf expert, Leif Dickinson, has worked closely with the Churchill Downs Track Superintendent to continue the precision management of the Churchill Downs Turf course to allow for multi-seasonal racing. This intense management allows for high quality and consistent turf conditions regardless of a cool spring, hot summer, or early winter. In collaboration with the world's foremost racing surfaces researcher, Dr. Mick Peterson, and the Racetrack Surfaces Testing Lab (RSTL), Churchill Downs continues to routinely conduct soil analysis and testing of the racing surfaces. Using the new state-of-the-art Integrated Racetrack Surface Tester, designed in collaboration by RSTL and Rainier Sensing, Churchill Downs collects daily GPS labeled cushion depth, moisture content, and surface temperature data that is used to better adapt racing surface management techniques to allow for the most consistent surface possible.
- Veterinary Oversight:** The Churchill Downs veterinary team begins reviewing veterinary treatment records of potential KY Oaks/Derby starters approximately 3 weeks prior to their respective races. This allows for additional veterinary scrutiny of potential KY Oaks/Derby starters prior to entering the race. Additionally, the Churchill Downs veterinary team is on the track each morning starting two weeks prior to observe the horses train on the racing surface. Beginning a week out approximately 15 KHRGC veterinarians join the Churchill Downs veterinary team onsite to help observe and examine the KY Oaks/Derby contenders during and after training and in their stalls.
- Collaboration with Industry Experts:** Work continues between Churchill Downs, HISA and other industry experts to identify at-risk horses and potential safety threat factors using veterinary medical records, computer models and advanced analytic techniques.
- Established Safety Management Committee:** Comprised of a cross-section of horsemen including trainers, exercise riders, jockeys, racetrack management and veterinarians the organized mobilization of this group allows for regular weekly meetings throughout the live race meet to foster an open dialogue to candidly discuss observations or concerns and provide real time feedback on areas for improvement. Members of the committee are also encouraged to communicate issues with track management at any time.
- Implemented Technology:** As an industry leader, Churchill Downs continues to invest in new technologies to help identify horses that may pose an increased risk potential. This allows for early veterinary intervention in an effort to diagnose and treat the horse before serious injury occurs. As a result, all starters will wear StrideSAFE biometric sensor technology to detect changes in a horse's gait to help identify inconsistencies or early warning signs of possible developing injury. Additionally, Churchill Downs has partnered with Hagyard Equine Medical Institute to provide an on-site Positron Emission Tomography ("PET") unit. This cutting edge diagnostic imaging unit is only the second PET machine permanently located at a racetrack in the United States.



Churchill Downs remains in compliance of regulations and initiatives developed by HISA related to medication, track safety and jockey health and safety. A full list of HISA's Rules and Regulations including HISA's Racetrack Safety Program and Prohibited Substances list (banned and controlled) as well as HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control ("ADMC") can be found at the link below. ADMC rules and regulations as enforced by Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit ("HIWU") were approved by the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") on March 27, 2023, and were implemented on May 22, 2023.

- [HISA Regulations](#)

Churchill Downs adheres to all applicable state laws as regulated by KHRGC, an independent agency of Kentucky Government. A comprehensive overview of those state regulations, including information on post-race and out-of-competition testing protocols, can be found at the link below.

- [KHRGC Regulations](#)

The Kentucky Derby Week & Spring Meet Condition Book contains Churchill Downs' Equine Safety Initiatives and Rules and Conditions for Racing and Training which must be signed by the trainer and attending veterinarian of every participating horse. The Condition Book also includes all safety policies related to required exams, paddock schooling, entries, workout rules and procedures, ship-ins and out-of-competition testing. The Kentucky Derby Week & Spring Meet Condition Book can be found in its entirety at the link below.

- [Kentucky Derby Week & Spring Meet Condition Book](#)

All rules and regulations approved and instituted by HISA and KHRGC or included in the Churchill Downs Conditions for Racing are implemented into the Churchill Downs Safety from Start to Finish program and are to be considered key initiatives for **Equine Safety & Welfare, Racing Integrity, Medication Compliance** and **Jockey Safety & Welfare**.





## ADDITIONAL EQUINE SAFETY INITIATIVES

- Horses participating in the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby must be on the grounds no later than 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, and must remain on the grounds until after the running of their race, pending an unforeseeable emergency.
- Horses participating in the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby will have 24-hour barn security as well as 24-hour video surveillance starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, through post time for their respective races.
- Horses that have been beaten by 12 lengths or more in their last 5 consecutive starts will be ineligible to race until approved by the CDI Equine Medical Director to return.
- Horses shall be limited to 4 starts in a rolling 8-week period.
- All first-time starters 4-years-old and older or 3-year-olds and older with no race within 365 days are required to have an official veterinary exam. In addition, horses that have not raced within 150 days, but less than 365 days, must have a Layoff Report submitted in the HISA portal prior to entry.
- Waiver Claiming Rule allows a trainer to enter a horse in a claiming race but be ineligible to be claimed providing the horse has been laid off and has not started for a minimum of 120 days since its last race, and the horse is entered for a claiming price equal to or greater than the price at which it last started.
- HIWU will conduct out-of-competition blood and hair samples of horses competing in the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks as well as undercard races before entries are taken and will be sent to an HIWU certified laboratory for immediate testing. Other jurisdictions will also obtain out-of-competition samples on behalf of HISA/HIWU from horses that are not stabled in Kentucky.
- All veterinary treatment records must be submitted to HISA and are available to regulatory veterinarians for review.
- Veterinarians shall not have contact with an entered horse within 24 hours of post time unless approved by the regulatory veterinarian.
- No medications are permitted within 48 hours of the race. In the event of a medical emergency, the Stewards will authorize treatment and the horse will be scratched.
- Any owner or trainer who sells or transports a horse previously stabled at a CDI track for purposes of slaughter will have stalls permanently revoked at all CDI properties.



In addition to these priorities, Patron Safety has always been considered a critical function of the Churchill Downs Safety from Start to Finish program. Key Initiatives for patron safety are highlighted below as well as a link to additional security policies created for the protection and safety of guests.

## PATRON SAFETY

- A total of 47 Paramedics and EMTs, 11 nurses, 7 Athletic Trainers and 6 doctors are onsite.
- 5 First Aid Stations are located throughout the facility: Executive Gate, First Floor Clubhouse, and the Infield.
- A minimum of 14 ambulances are onsite with an EMT and paramedic in each ambulance. Other ambulances are on standby within the area for immediate response if necessary.
- More than 30 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and public safety partners are onsite to further the level of security for all in attendance.
- [Kentucky Derby Guest Security](#)



*If you suspect or witness conduct in violation of these safety rules and policies, please report it to one of the following:*

**HISA Anonymous Text Tipline:**  
(855) 901-8477 or call  
(888) 714-4498

**Churchill Downs Integrity  
Department:**  
horsesafety@kyderby.com

**Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming  
Corporation Integrity Violation:**  
(859) 246-2040