



Ocean Downs Racetrack-an overall view for 2026

Deadline for submitting racing applications is Monday, May 1, 2026.

An up to date Coggins test (within the last 12 months) must be on file with the USTA Electronic eligibility system or the race office. No entries will be accepted without it.

A “release of liability” form and proof of Workmen’s Compensation Insurance must be on file with the race office and MD Racing Commission from all trainers and their employees prior to any horse being accepted.

Racing dates: May 18- September 7

Sunday, Monday and Wednesday; Post Time 6:40 pm

Draw schedule

Wednesday for Sundays (by 9am)

Thursday for Mondays (by 9am)

Sunday for Wednesdays (by 9 am)

Qualifiers will be drawn Mondays for Wednesdays by 6 pm; they will be raced at 5:00 pm on race nights

Racing applications:

- An application to race at Ocean Downs, listing all the horses you wish to race at the 2026 meet, must be on file in the race office by May 1, 2026 to be accepted. Any application received after that date will not be reviewed until the following week. Subsequently, all new applications and reviews will be held on Thursdays
- All forms related to purse checks from the previous year remain in the purse check system. New forms must be submitted prior to racing, if your bank information changes or you have changed addresses. All forms are available on the web site, including those for the MD bonus.

- Horses being added to the roster after May 1 must be on file in the race office by the following Thursday for approval for Monday's races.
- All horsemen may call the race office beginning Monday, May 11 between 9 am-3:30 pm regarding their application status.
- No owner may have more than two trainers for horses racing in overnight events without approval.
- If a horse is taken off the roster, or is taken to another track to race without the permission of the race secretary, it must be re-submitted to race at Ocean Downs and go through the normal approval process (except for stakes races).
- The trainer is solely responsible for filing the necessary paperwork to withdraw from or add horses to his/her list.

Training and qualifying information:

- Training days for the season have been established-April 22, 29; May- 6,13, 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17 and 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; August- 5,12, 19 and 26. Training from the paddock only; no training from the ship in barn.
- Qualifying days (Wednesdays) are shared with the trainers; If you wish to train on race nights, you must notify the race office. Wednesdays am are for trainers **only**.
- Training times are 7 am until 12 pm. Declare Mondays by 6 pm for Wednesday training.
- An up-to-date Coggins test (with 12 months) must be on file with the USTA electronic eligibility system or the race office @ Ocean Downs; no entries will be accepted with out it; the horse also needs to be registered with the USTA.
- If you have a recent up-to-date Coggins test, not yet on file with the USTA, you may leave a copy with security at the stable gate, where we will place it on file. if your horse has no paper work, you will be denied access to the grounds.
- In order to train at night, the trainer/authorized rep is required to call in the entry by 10 am on draw days at the following numbers-
For April trainers, call Peter Szymanski @410-641-0600 x 3377 from 8am until 10 am; for late April, May, June, July and August trainers, call Crystal Lilley, Race Secretary @410-641-0600 x 3212 from 8am until 10 am.
- A contact/emergency phone number must be left with the race office at entry.
- While utilizing the track for training, a helmet and safety vest MUST be worn.
- Please be courteous. If you cannot make your training session, a simple phone call to cancel will do.
- Please note: there will be a \$50 monthly training fee for those horsemen who are not a member of CSOA and/or MSBA. That fee will cover your entire stable that you have in training. Thank you.

Qualifying:

- Pace: 2:03
- Trot: 2:05
- Two seconds allowed for two year olds
- One second allowed for three year olds and maidens 4yos and younger
- Qualifying races: since Roseroft is racing through mid-May, our first qualifier will be held on Wednesday, May 20 at 5:00pm; after that, all subsequent Wednesdays. Post time: 5:00 pm. Please declare by 6 pm (Mondays) and/or check the current condition sheet.
- Horses will go on the "must qualify" list if:
 - They fail to go in qualifying time on a fast track
 - They are scratched off a qualifying race
 - They are scratched two (2) consecutive starts.
 - They break in their two (2) most recent races over a fast track
 - They perform poorly as determined by the judges
 - They fail to finish the race
 - They break off a qualifying race (BOQ) on a fast track (win exempt)
- Horses placed on the stewards list for sickness/lameness/transportation/personal may not race for seven days (eg. Horses scratched Sunday are not eligible to race until the following Sunday)
***Please note-very important: Horses racing must have a clean charted line within 45 days prior to racing. This pertains to all MDSS and MDSBRF races also.

Claiming races:

- The minimum claiming price is \$ 5,000
- Horses in claiming races will not be allowed to move up in price unless 1st or 2nd in their last claiming start, or at the discretion of the race secretary.
- If a horse is scratched from a claiming race at any track within 45 days, they must go back in for the same claiming price or lower in their next start

- A claimed horse that changes trainers must be resubmitted by the new trainer
- All claims must be made with bank draft or certified check. All claims must be submitted to the Ocean Downs race office located in the race administration building. A claimed horse may not be raced outside the state until 30 days expire from the date of the claim or the meet ends.

The check must reflect the purchase price of the horse and 6% MD state tax. For example, price of the horse is \$10,000, add \$600 for tax and the check total becomes \$10,600. The USTA transfer fee of \$40.00 can be paid separately by cash.

Claims must be made 20 minutes before post time for the race in which the horse is participating. The horse must be carded and race in order to be claimed.

*****Note: very important: A claim shall be voided if a horse is a starter and the Horse dies on the racetrack or suffers an injury which requires the euthanasia of the horse, or if deemed lame, as determined by the State Veterinarian, while the horse is on the track.**

- No horses may enter to race without first approval from the race secretary prior to entering.
- Horses scratched from posts seven and/or eight (other than a management error or a judges circumstantial call) will be assigned the same post in their next start if re-entered at Ocean Downs within 14 days in an overnight event.

Classified races:

- Ocean Downs will be utilizing the condition system that matches per start earnings; this will include per start earnings and/or par-mutuel races won
- The lowest classified event is preferred to Maryland owned/sired/bred and must have five or more starts in 2026 to be eligible; the top classes may be handicapped by ability and/or money.
- No horses may enter without being approved.
- Ocean Downs reserves the right to rule a horse too competitive, non-competitive and may also rule a horse off the grounds.
- If a horse's last start was not at Ocean Downs, that horse must be approved by the race secretary prior to racing back at Ocean Downs

General:

- The 45 day rule is in effect for the summer meet after the initial period of time. It must be a clean charted line.
- The 45 day rule will also be in effect for Maryland Sire Stakes and Maryland Fund Races.
- Horses entered with a first or second choice of events that will not get in by date may be moved to the second choice. When entering, always enter with your first choice in mind.
- A horse entered in a class to which it is not eligible may be listed as not eligible and left out, or transferred to another class at the discretion of the race secretary
- Entering horses in classes where not eligible, or with no knowledge of which classes are eligible to race in, or attempting to make entries without a condition sheet may result in the entries not being accepted
- A safety vest and helmet must be worn at all times while on the track, including morning jogging, training prior to the races, warming up and qualifying races. NO shorts are to be worn during qualifying races.

- **Definitions of Maryland owned and or bred:**

MD bred- horses must meet the criteria outlined in COMAR 09.10.02.43 (C)

- MD sired-Horses sired by a registered MD stallion in the year bred

- MD owned- defined as owner by a MD resident at the time of declaration; if the horse has multiple owners, all the owners must be MD residents.

All MD owners MUST comply with the rules and regulations associated with the bonus (please see the section located elsewhere on this web site).

- Conditions sheets will reflect 100% MD owned, bred or sired races as per the agreement between CSOA and OD; daily draw sheets will be posted in the race office
- **Note when entering: it is strongly recommended that you enter your horse(s) electronically via the USTA system. You may also phone your entries in.**
- Trainers are encouraged to enter MD O/S/B races with non MD O/S/B horses. MD races not filling properly will be opened.
- **Also note: when paying starting fees for all MDSBRF and MDSS races, Ocean Downs will be accepting check only-NO cash please.**
- **VERY IMPORTANT: ALL HORSES PROGRAMMED TO RACE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A \$35.00 ENTRY FEE (MDSS and MDSBRF RACES EXCLUDED). THIS WILL BE DEBITED.**

- **If you have any questions, concerning racing during these times, please contact Peter Szymanski, Director of Racing, at 410-641-0600 x3377.**

ATTENTION HORSEMEN

ALL HORSEMEN MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION AND THE UNITED STATES TROTTING ASSOCIATION

ALL OWNERS, TRAINERS, DRIVERS AND GROOMS MUST HAVE A CURRENT MARYLAND LICENSE (ALSO A USTA LICENSE FOR O-T-D). THIS ALSO APPLIES TO QUALIFIERS.

MANDATORY: ALL DRIVERS MUST CHECK IN BY 6:05 PM FOR RACES ONE AND TWO , UNLESS GETTING PREVIOUS PERMISSION FROM THE JUDGES; AFTERWARDS, YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST RACE OF THE NIGHT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR PRESENCE TO THE PADDOCK JUDGE.

BOTH FEET MUST BE KEPT IN THE STIRRUPS AT ALL TIMES DURING A RACE, EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT OR PULLING EAR PLUGS.

DRIVERS KEEP BOTH FEET IN THE STIRRUPS AT ALL TIMES. AND A LINE IN EACH HAND THROUGHOUT THE RACE; HAVE CONTROL OF THEIR HORSE AT ALL TIMES AND ADJUST HANDHOLDS SO AS TO BE TAUT WITH ELBOWS IN FRON OF THE CHEST.

THE WHIP SHALL NOT EXCEED FOUR FEET AND THE SNAPPER NO LONGER THAN SIX INCHES.THE DRIVER MAY USE THE WHIP TO HIT THE WHEEL DISC OR THE SHAFT AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH ANOTHER HORSE OR DRIVER.

THE BRUTAL USE OF THE WHIP OR EXCESSIVE OR INDISCRIMINATEUSE IS CONSIDERED A VIOLATION AND IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE AND/OR SUSPENSION.

THE DRIVER SHALL NOT CAUSE VISIBLE INJURY TO THE HORSE, WHIP A HORSE AFTER THE RACE OR WHIP BELOW THE SHAFT.

HORSES SHALL PARADE IN ORDER, FIVE (5) LENGTHS APART. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PARADE YOUR OWN HORSE, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ANOTHER DRIVER TO DO SO, AND NOTIFY THE JUDGES.

ANY HORSE THAT FALLS ON THE TRACK WILL BE SCRATCHED. IF A HORSE FALLS IN THE PADDOCK, THE HORSE MUST BE INSPECTED BY THE STATE VETERINARIAN BEFORE CONTINUING.

AFTER THE POST PARADE, ANY ADJUSTMENT OF HARNESS OR OTHER EQUIPMENT MUST BE MADE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PADDOCK JUDGE. TRAINERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR EQUIPMENT TO BE IN PROPER AND SAFE CONDITION. IF YOU HAVE BROKEN EQUIPMENT DURING THE RACE, REPORT IT TO THE PADDOCK JUDGE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RACE IS OVER.

HORSES INTO RACE THAT NIGHT ARE ASKED TO BE IN THE PADDOCK AT THEIR RIGHTFUL TIME FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE RACE. PLEASE ADHERE TO THE POSTED AND PUBLISHED PADDOCK SCHEDULE.

OBJECTIONS MUST BE LODGED WITH THE STARTING JUDGE AFTER THE RACE AND BEFORE DISMOUNTING. INDICATE AGAINST WHOM THE OBJECTION IS LODGED, WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED, AND THE NATURE OF THE VIOLATION. THEN RETURN TO THE PADDOCK TO TALK WITH THE JUDGES.

HORSES NOT FINISHING THE RACE WILL BE PLACED ON THE QUALIFYING LIST, UNLESS EXCUSED DUE TO LEGITIMATE BROKEN EQUIPMENT (PRIOR TO MAKING A BREAK-THAT IS NOT FAULTY) OR BY INTERFERENCE.

HORSES IN TO GO THAT ARE PUT ON THE STEWARDS LIST WILL BE SCRATCHED.

QUALIFYING DRIVERS MUST WEAR FULL COLORS AND /OR THEIR WARM UP SUITS TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR THEIR DRIVES.

HORSEMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCTING OF THEIR BUSINESS. THEY MUST CONTACT THE JUDGES TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE ALSO ELIGIBLE HORSES AND LEAVE A CURRENT PHONE NUMBER WHERE THEY MAY BE REACHED. IT IS THE TRAINER'S OBLIGATION TO CHECK WITH THE JUDGES PRIOR TO SCRATCH TIME TO NAME THE PROPER DRIVER.

HORSES ON THE TRACK AFTER 6PM MUST WEAR WARM UP PADS OR SCHOOLING PADS. DRIVERS MUST BE IN COLORS.

NO RIDING DOUBLE ON THE MAIN RACETRACK AT ANY TIME.

**OCEAN DOWNS
2026**

LASIX GUIDELINES

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION HAS INSTITUTED NEW RULES FOR LASIX ADMINISTRATION: LASIX MUST NOW BE GIVEN A MINIMUM OF Four (4) HOURS PRIOR TO THE RACE. WHEN QUALIFYING A HORSE, THE TRAINER OF RECORD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LASIX ADMINISTRATION.

AND LASIX WILL BE ADMINISTERED AT THE TRACK BY THE APPOINTED THIRD PARTY TRACK VETERINARIAN. NO ADJUNCT BLEEDER MEDICATIONS ARE PERMITTED.

ALL LASIX ADMINISTRATION IS BY IV ONLY.

NOTE: THE RULES OF THE MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE. U.S.T.A. RULES WILL BE USED IF NOT COVERED BY THE MARYLAND RULES.

ANY RULES OR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADDRESSED BY THE ABOVE RULES AND REGULATIONS WILL BE COVERED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE HOST ASSOCIATION OR THE MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION.