

Massachusetts Standardbred Sire Stakes Rules and Regulations

- (1) The following word and terms shall have the following meaning:
- Age- the age of a horse shall be reckoned from the first day of January of the year of the foaling.
 - Broodmare- a filly or mare being used for breeding purposes.
 - Colt or Horse- a male horse
 - Continuation Fee- fee to maintain eligibility
 - Dash- a race decided in a single event of one mile
 - Department- Department of Agricultural Resources
 - Eligible- horse meeting U.S.T.A. and program requirements
 - Entry- declaring eligible's to race
 - Filly or Mare- female horse
 - Foal-offspring, colt/gelding or filly
 - Full Season- breeding season
 - Gait- trot or pace
 - Gelding- castrated male horse
 - Nominating Fee- registration fee.
 - Qualifying Standard- a predetermined time standard for a specific age and gait that qualifies the ability of an entry
 - S.O.M. Inc.- Standardbred Owners of Massachusetts Inc.
 - Split- two or more divisions of a race made necessary by number of entries.
 - Stallion- male horse
 - Starting Fee- entry fee to race
 - Sustaining Fee- fee to maintain eligibility to race at a specific age
 - Tattoo- identifying number issued by U.S.T.A. to registered horse
 - U.S.T.A.- United States Trotting Association, National Breed Organization
 - Yearling- 1-year-old equine
- (2) Massachusetts Standardbred Sire Stakes are for Massachusetts eligible foals to race as two and three year olds. S.O.M. Inc. shall on or before January 1, of each year, establish the amount of fees to register eligible yearlings, two year olds and three olds in this program. The eligibility dates for colts/geldings and fillies shall conform to the U.S.T.A. rule and regulations.
- (3) Stakes races shall be for foals of mares bred to a stallion that is registered with S.O.M. Inc. and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and stood in Massachusetts for the full season. Foals maintaining qualifications shall be eligible to race as two and three year olds. These races shall be known as the Massachusetts Sire Stakes.
- Beginning with the 2002-breeding season the resident mare legislation (Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2001) will be in effect.
- Also Eligible: Beginning with the 2002 breeding season all mares bred out of state and residing in Massachusetts prior to December 1 of the year before foaling, must be registered with S.O.M. Inc. and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. A copy of the mares registration and a statement where the mare will be residing in Massachusetts, along with (\$25.00) registration fee must be paid to S.O.M. Inc. prior to December 1 in order for the foal to be eligible to the program.
- (4) A stallion shall be registered by January 1 of each year preceding the stallion's standing in service on designated farm. Stallions shall be registered with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and S.O.M. Inc. and shall stand for the full breeding season on the designated farm. Prior to October 1 of each year, each breeder standing a standardbred stallion in the commonwealth at either private or public service shall file with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources a list of all standardbred mares bred to such stallion in that year and a verified statement representing that the stallion stood the entire breeding season in the commonwealth. The breeding season for stallions standing for stud service shall be from the first day of February to the fifteenth day of July in each year. Registered stallions shall not be removed from the designated farm during the breeding season except in case of emergency. There is a ten percent (10%) Stallion Award paid to the stallion owners of stallions standing in Massachusetts.
- (5) Yearling Eligibility: Each yearling must be sired by a registered and eligible stallion that is registered, with S.O.M. INC., and the Department. The owner of the dam need not be a resident of Massachusetts and foaling need not be in Massachusetts. The yearling registration will require a copy of the U.S.T.A. registration certificate along with the nomination fee of \$25.00 by May 15th of the yearling year. A late registration fee of \$500.00, plus the \$25.00 nomination fee, if paid by December 31st of the yearling year, will count as registration.
- Beginning in 2004 yearling nomination will limit eligibility to race at ages 2 and 3, yearlings shall have met the following requirements.
- i. The qualifying standardbred horses shall have been sired by a Massachusetts registered stallion on file with the Department of Agricultural Resources; provided, however, that the stallion stood the entire breeding season of February 1, to July 15, inclusive, in the commonwealth in the year any such eligible foal was conceived; or
 - ii. The foal of a standardbred mare that drops the foal in the commonwealth and is bred back to a Massachusetts registered stallion; or the foal of a standardbred mare that resides in the commonwealth from December 1 of the year prior to foaling and continues such residence until foaling and foals in the commonwealth. The current resident mare legislation is due to expire July 31, 2011.
 - iii. In either case of sub (1) or (2), each standardbred foal dropped in the commonwealth shall be registered with the United States Trotting Association, S.O.M. Inc. and the Department of Agricultural Resources.

- (6) Two and Three Year Old Eligibility: All two and three year olds must make the following payments in order to race as two and three year olds.

2-Year Olds	
February 15 th (Continuation).....	\$100.00
April 15 th (Sustaining-Specify Gait).....	\$200.00
3-Year Olds	
February 15 th (Continuation).....	\$150.00
April 15 th (Sustaining-Specified Gait).....	\$300.00

- (7) The February 15th payment of the two year old year must be made in order to remain eligible as a three year old. All gaits must be specified on the April 15th payment. Transfer of gait may be made at time of declaration, but past payments remain in respected funds.
- (8) Nominating, Continuation, and Sustaining payments shall be made to S.O.M. Inc., PO Box #1682, Plainville, MA 02762. Starting fees shall be collected at the pari-mutual track, and shall be distributed according to the applicable and pertinent rules and regulations of the U.S.T.A.
- (9) Each race shall consist of one dash for a distance of one mile. All entries must start and finish in an event to be eligible to earn purse money. Purse money shall be distributed in the following manor.

5 or more starters:	50, 25, 12, 8, 5%
4 starters:	50, 25, 15, and 10%
3 starters:	50, 30, and 20%
2 starters:	65, 35%
1 starter:	100%

In the event that any unforeseen condition shall make it unsuitable to race the stakes, S.O.M. Inc. reserves the right to divide the purse money equally among entrants which have paid their starting fees and have declared to race.

- (10) Entry requirements shall be in accordance with the U.S.T.A. rule and regulations. **All horses must start in at least two (2) preliminary events to be eligible to the final event.**

- (11) (a) The nine (9) highest point earners will be eligible to the finals. In case of ties, horses will be drawn by lot.
 (b) The next highest point earners will be eligible if any higher earners fail to declare.
 (c) Points will be as follows:

First	50
Second	25
Third	12
Fourth	8
Fifth	5
All starters will receive one point.	

- (12) (a) All horses must be qualified and meet Massachusetts Sire Stakes standards to be eligible to any preliminary or final events.
 (b) **They also must have a satisfactory charted line within forty-five (45) days from race date to race date.** Horses meeting the qualifying standards will not be permitted to race on consecutive calendar days.
 (c) Qualifying Standards:

Pacers	Trotters
2 Year Olds.....2:05	2 Year Olds.....2:07
3 Year Olds.....2:03	3 Year Olds.....2:05
	No Allowances

- (13) A declaration fee of one percent (1%) of the net purse is due and payable no later than one hour before post time once a horse is declared to start. Failure to do so will result in an automatic scratch. No fee for final events.
- (14) Any division with ten (10) or more entries will be split, thus eliminating any trailers.
- (15) Should any Division, Leg or Final not fill, those monies dedicated to that sex, gait and age will be reapportioned to all other stake divisions within the same age group.
- (16) Except in the case of an accident, a driver must remain seated in order to be declared a finisher. If the judges place a starter unplace, that starter shall be declared not finishing the race. In the event a starter or starters fail to complete or finish the course, purse distribution shall be paid in strict accordance with rule 9. Purse monies not distributed may be retained to the purse account or may be reallocated to that same sex, gait and age at a later date in a preliminary leg or final.