

Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund 2026 Rules & Conditions

Eligibility:

To qualify for Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund money in 2026, a horse must be registered under the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Program.

Conditions:

1. All Ohio-funded stakes races must go if there are five or more separate betting interests. The Race Secretary shall request uncoupling for common betting interests. The Ohio State Racing Commission may, in its discretion, uncouple the common betting interests.

If an Ohio-funded stakes race draws four or fewer separate betting interests and the track elects not to permit wagering on this race, the race will be run as an exhibition, and the purse will be dropped to Ohio Fund Money. Any Ohio-funded stakes race scheduled at one mile on the main dirt track will move to the next available longer distance if more than eight horses are entered.

All Ohio-funded stakes race nomination blanks will read as follows: A fee of \$50 each shall accompany the nomination. Entry fees shall be 1% of the State's share of the total purse, which shall be due at the time of entry. An additional fee of 0.65% of the gross purse will be required to start, which shall be due at noon, day of the race. Nominating and entry fees shall be returned to excluded horses.

All Ohio-funded stakes races will be funded as follows: 35% from the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund and 65% from the horsemen's purse fund.

2. No Ohio Thoroughbred Fund Stake will be split. All Ohio Thoroughbred Fund stakes that have more entries than the starting gate will hold will be drawn under the following guidelines:

- (A)** Horses with the highest earnings in the year of the stake as calculated at time of closing and preceding year are preferred;
- (B)** When an Ohio Thoroughbred Fund Stake has more entries than the starting gate will hold, there shall be sixteen horses drawn into a race on the dirt and fourteen for the turf. At scratch time if one or both horses with the lowest earnings should draw in, they will race from their assigned post positions at time of draw. Nominating and entry fees will be returned to owners of excluded horses;
- (C)** Scratch time for all Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund stakes shall be at the normal time of the track hosting the race;
- (D)** A horse may be nominated to more than one Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund stake on the same race day, and may be entered in more than one Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund stake, but must declare in only one stake by normal scratch time of the host track:
- (E) To enter a horse in any Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund race a horse shall have but not limited to;**
(1) The required number of workouts (2) Gate card (3) Tattooed (4) Registered with the OTRF
- (F)** Purse Distribution for Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund stake races: 1st-60% 2nd-20% 3rd-10% 4th-5%
5th-3% 6th - 2%.

3. Ohio overnight races must be written in the following categories:

- a.** 2-year-olds;
- b.** 2-year-old fillies;
- c.** 3-year-olds;
- d.** 3-year-old fillies;
- e.** 3-year-old and up; and
- f.** 3-year-old and up fillies/mares.

4. Two-year-old's shall not be required to carry more than 122 lbs.

5. At least 40% of all overnight races must be written for fillies or fillies and mares. At least 40% of all overnight races must be written with no gender restrictions.

6. Should any fund overnight race fail to be contested due to insufficient entries; the lists of entries made in such race shall immediately be posted in a conspicuous place on the Horsemen's Bulletin Board. Failure to do so shall be grounds for penalties or sanctions by the Commission.

7. At least one Ohio-funded overnight race shall be scheduled on every day of racing at each track. At their discretion, each Racing Secretary may schedule more than one Ohio-funded race each day, taking into consideration the total amount of overnight money and supplement money allotted in 2026 versus the total number of race days per year at each track. Overnight and supplement allotments for 2026 are as follows:

Track	Days	Allotment	Percentage
Belterra Park	93	\$1,164,408	20.3%
Mahoning Valley	100	\$2,087,904	36.4%
Thistledown	100	\$2,483,688	43.3%
Total	293	\$5,736,000	

8. In all overnight fund races, the amount of the purse put up by the track (Horsemen’s purse fund) must be at least equal to the amount of contribution from the Ohio thoroughbred race fund. In no event may the track’s share of the purse be less than the amount the track would normally pay for the same class of race.

9. Ohio maiden races for 2-year-olds, both registered and accredited, must be written starting June 1, unless otherwise approved by the OSRC as part of a yearly Ohio-bred race schedule and shall then be written at least every 18 calendar days thereafter at each track. Ohio maiden special weight races for 3-year-olds and up, both registered and accredited, must be written at least every 18 calendar days at each track beginning in the first week of the 2024 racing season. Ohio allowance races for non-winners of two, non-winners of three and non-winners of four shall be written at least every 18 calendar days at each track and shall not be combined with any other conditions for purposes of this requirement. An Ohio allowance for other than lifetime conditions shall be written every 30 calendar days at each track. Ohio claiming races for maiden, non-winners of two, non-winners of three and open shall be written at least every 30 calendar days at each track.

Racing Secretaries must send proof copies of condition book to the Administrator of the OTRF, Executive Director of the Ohio State Racing Commission and the Thoroughbred Advisory Committee members a minimum of three days prior to the printing of said condition book.

10. All Ohio-funded non-claiming races must go if there are six or more betting interests. All Ohio-funded claiming races shall be used with six or more betting interests. Registered Ohio-Breds shall be preferred in all races after any condition eligibility preference has been observed. If an Ohio-funded overnight race draws 14 or more entries, the race shall be split. The Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund share of the purse may be split accordingly.

11. In the event there are six or more separate betting interests, in each of Ohio Accredited horses and Ohio-foaled horses entered in any Ohio-funded overnight race, the Racing Secretary shall split the race into an Ohio-Accredited and an Ohio-foaled race.

12. The following schedule shall be used for all Ohio overnight races:

ALLOWANCE WITH LIFETIME CONDITIONS: The Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund will provide the following to each purse for the following categories:

a. Maiden (non-claiming)	\$7,500
b. Non-winners of 2 or non-winners of a race other than maiden or claiming	\$7,800
c. Non-winners of 3 or non-winners of 2 races other than maiden or claiming	\$8,700
d. Non-winners of 3 races other than maiden or claiming or never won a race or 2 races at one mile or over other than maiden or claiming	\$8,700

ALLOWANCE OTHER THAN LIFETIME CONDITIONS: Each track shall write an Allowance race for, other than lifetime conditions, at least once per month **\$9,000**

CLAIMING RACES / STARTER RACES.

All Ohio Claiming races \$20,000 and above receive	\$4,500
All Ohio Claiming races below \$20,000 and above \$6,500 receive	\$3,900
All Ohio Claiming races \$6,500 and below receive	\$3,000

13. All Ohio-registered thoroughbreds that win or finish second or finish third in open races under the following categories shall be supplemented as indicated below. An open race is any race that is not limited to horses foaled in a specific state, sired by stallions standing in a specific state, or horses sold at a certain auction.

Purses shall be supplemented as follows:

Accredited (non-claiming) \$10,500 (first finisher); \$3,000 (second); \$1,500 (third)	Total	\$15,000
Open maiden allowance \$7,000 (first finisher); \$2,000 (second); \$1,000 (third)	Total	\$10,000
Open allowance non-winner of 2 or non-winners of a race other than maiden or claiming \$7,000 (first finisher); \$2,000 (second); \$1,000 (third)	Total	\$10,000
Open allowance non-winner of 3 or non-winners of 2 other than maiden or claiming \$7,000 (first finisher); \$2,000 (second); \$1,000 (third)	Total	\$10,000
Open allowance non-winner of 4 or non-winners of 3 other than maiden or claiming \$7,000 (first finisher); \$2,000 (second); \$1,000 (third)	Total	\$10,000
Open allowance \$7,000 (first finisher); \$2,000 (second); \$1,000 (third)	Total	\$10,000
Claiming Races / Starter Races		
Open claiming \$20,000 and above \$2,800 (first finisher); \$800 (second); \$400 (third)	Total	\$4,000
Open claiming \$6,501 up to \$20,000 \$1,120 (first finisher); \$320 (second); \$160 (third)	Total	\$1,600
Open claiming \$6,500 and below \$700 (first finisher); \$200 (second); \$100 (third)	Total	\$1,000

Wins in Ohio restricted races will not be counted for eligibility purposes when Ohio-Breds race in open allowance non-winners of a race other than maiden or claiming or starter, open allowance non-winners of 2 other than maiden or claiming or starter, open allowance non-winners of 3 other than maiden or claiming or starter.

14. Each Condition Book shall contain a list of all Ohio-funded races to be carded for the ensuing 15-day period beyond the current Condition Book. The list shall identify the date, purse, and distance of each Ohio-funded race. In all condition books and racing programs the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund logo shall be used to identify all Ohio-restricted races.

15. Pursuant to Section 3769-5-66, paragraphs (A)(1) & (A)(2), Breeders' Awards shall be established as follows:

- A. Broodmares**
- 1.** All races other than claiming or starter allowance, **15% of winner's share of purse, 15% of second place share of purse, and 15% of third place share of purse**
 - 2.** All claiming and starter allowance races, **15% of winner's share of purse, 15% of second place share of purse, and 15% of third place share of purse**
- B. Stallions**
- 1.** All races other than claiming or starter allowance, **10% of winner's share of purse, 10% of second place share of purse, and 10% of third place share of purse**
 - 2.** All claiming and starter allowance races, **10% of winner's share of purse, 10% of second place share of purse, and 10% of third place share of purse**

16. To receive a Broodmare or Stallion Award, a breeder must have a current breeder's license issued by the Ohio State Racing Commission.

The following were considered while developing the 2026 stakes schedule:

- 1.** Races for 3-year-old colts and races for older males have been scheduled as far apart as possible.
- 2.** Races for 3-year-old fillies and races for older mares have been scheduled as far apart as possible.
- 3.** Races have been distributed between racetracks to afford as much equity as possible based upon the number of racing dates and moneys generated for the program at each track. Every effort has been made to avoid having consecutive races at any one single racetrack.

17. An Ohio-bred for the purpose of these conditions means one registered with the Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund. These conditions are subject to interpretation, review, and revision at any time by the Ohio State Racing Commission. All decisions made by the Ohio State Racing Commission with respect to these rules and regulations shall be final. The Ohio State Racing Commission reserves the sole and exclusive right to modify, alter, amend and/or cancel any event in its entirety.