



Maryland Steeplechase Association 2019 Stakeholder Survey Due September 1, 2019

In 2015, the Maryland Steeplechase Association's Conditions Committee took a comprehensive look at all Conditions, which had not been reviewed in detail in sometime. As part of that process, we surveyed the stakeholders seeking input on Conditions. This resulted in receipt of valuable information. At that time, the Association decided that it would be useful to touch base with the stakeholders in this community every several years. The purpose of this Survey is to do just that, but not limited to Conditions.

Please review the Survey carefully, and take time to give us your considered thoughts. We ask that you be thoughtful and constructive. Please feel free to use additional pages if needed in answering any of the questions.

Send responses to mtw@wlekn.com, or mail to Mike Wharton at 104 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Access

1. When was the last time you read completely the conditions in the Maryland Condition Book (either in print or online)?
2. Do you find them easily accessible? Yes No
3. If yes, how did you access them? (check all that apply)
 Online
 Received printed booklet in the mail
 Sought out a printed booklet?
4. The General Conditions of the MSA Governor's Cup Series dictate which races offered by each meet will be included for Series awards. Do you understand that the individual race meets do not need to comply with the General Conditions of the MSA Governor's Cup Series? Yes No

Stakeholder Status

1. Please describe your status (check all that apply):
 Owner Rider Race Committee Organizer
 Trainer Parent Other (Please explain)

Conditions

1. Please provide your thoughts or comments regarding ways in which the General Conditions should be changed.

2. Please provide thoughts or comments regarding ways in which the Junior, Young Rider and Pony Flat Racing Conditions should be changed. In particular, please comment on the pony measuring condition (#6) and the Junior Field Master Chase Condition (#7). _____

3. For the race meets that have pony flat racing and/or junior field master chases, provide any comments regarding race specific conditions that we could pass along to those race directors?
 - a. Green Spring Valley Hounds Point-to-Point

 - b. Elkridge Harford Hunt Point-to-Point

 - c. Grand National Steeplechase of Maryland

d. Junior Hunt Cup

e. Howard County Point-to-Point

f. Fair Hill Point-to-Point

g. Potomac Point-to-Point

Race Courses

1. Recognizing that each individual race meet is autonomous, and the Maryland Steeplechase Association has no authority to direct them, please provide comments regarding the course for pony flat races, or junior field master chases, at the following race meets:

a. Green Spring Valley Hounds Point-to-Point

b. Elkridge Harford Hunt Point-to-Point

c. Grand National Steeplechase of Maryland

d. Junior Hunt Cup

e. Howard County Point-to-Point

f. Fair Hill Point-to-Point

g. Potomac Point-to-Point

2. Would a ratings system for the difficulty of the race course be useful?

Yes No

Standings

1. Do you regularly access and review point standings online? Yes No

2. Please provide your comments regarding the process for assigning points and maintaining standings.

Clinics/Schooling

The Maryland Steeplechase Association organizes and sponsors two (2) Steeplechasing Clinics in early to mid-March. One is a novice clinic and the other is an advanced clinic. The Association attempts to rotate the venue and the clinicians to keep them fresh. The Rising Horsemen then typically sponsor formal schooling sessions, typically at The Hundred Acre Field. This presents an additional opportunity for practice, and those seeking qualification for the junior field master chases. Please provide your comments regarding the clinics, content, location, instructors, etc.

Board of Directors/Bylaws

1. Please provide your comments regarding any ways in which the Bylaws should be amended to further advance the mission of the Association
(For your reference, the Bylaws can be found at www.marylandsteeplechaseassociation.com/history-mission)
2. Please provide your comments regarding the Officers, the Board of Directors, or how the Association could be better managed to further the mission of the Association

Annual Awards Banquet

Please provide your comments for the organizers of the Awards Reception?

2. Were you aware that the ticket price for juniors 14 and under is only \$15?
 Yes No
3. Were you aware that juniors winning awards received complimentary tickets to the reception? Yes No

Age of Riders

1. What should the maximum age be for small pony and Shetland riders?

2. If a rider is 16 and rides in a regular unsanctioned horse race, should that rider be able to ride in the junior divisions after that? Yes No

Please explain your reasoning: _____

Opportunity

1. Should there be more junior/young rider races? What time of year? What type of venue? Yes No

Disqualifications

1. What is your position on disqualifications in Junior and Young Rider races for not adhering strictly to the formal rules of racing:

2. What do you consider "passing the field master" to mean?

Length of Races

1. Please comment on the length of races in the pony flat race and Junior Field Master Chase Series:
(a) I think the length of the races are (pick one):
 about right too short too long

Miscellaneous

Any other thoughts or comments concerning the MSA Governor's Cup Junior/Young Rider Series Awards, educational opportunities or racing opportunities?

Please return this survey by September 1, 2019. Thank you!