



Ohio State Racing Commission

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Ted Strickland
Governor

William Koester
Chairman

To: Harness General Managers
Paddock Judges
Judges
OHHA

From: Tom Fries, Jr.
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TF", is written over the name "Tom Fries, Jr." in the "From:" field.

Date: April 30, 2010

Re: Electronic Communications Devices

Rule 3769-18-08 states that "Drivers, trainers, owners and grooms shall not converse or otherwise exchange information with anyone outside the paddock after they have entered therein, except on permission from the paddock judge, and they shall be disciplined for any breach of this rule." This includes conversing or otherwise exchanging information with an electronic communication device. "Conversing or otherwise exchanging information" includes, but is not limited to, texting, e-mailing, blogging, tweeting, and using Facebook or a similar website. An "electronic communication device" includes, but is not limited to, cell phones; laptop, desktop, netbook, or i-Pad computers; i-Pod touches; and any other device that can place a "phone call" or uses wi-fi technology.

No driver, trainer, owner or groom shall use any electronic communication device while in the paddock. Security and/or any paddock judge who sees a driver, trainer, owner, or groom using an electronic device shall immediately notify the Judges.

The Judges shall then notify security to remove the offending driver, trainer, owner or groom and/or confiscate the electronic communication device until such time that the Judges can confirm that the electronic communication device was being used in the paddock. Upon confirmation by the Judges that an electronic communication device was being used in the paddock, the Judges shall set a hearing with the offending driver, trainer, owner, or groom. Since this rule protects the integrity of horse racing in the State of Ohio, the Racing Commission recommends that the penalties for a violation of this rule begin at a \$100.00 for the first offense and a \$250.00 fine and 7 day suspension for the second offense. The penalty should escalate for the third and any subsequent offenses.