

MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

IN RE: BANGOR STATE FAIR)
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**ORDER AND DECISION
ON REOPENING RACE
DATES**

INTRODUCTION

On May 20, 2025, the Maine State Harness Racing Commission (“Commission”) considered Bangor State Fair’s request to reopen the November 19, 2024, race date assignment proceedings pursuant to 8 M.R.S. § 271(1)-(2), 5 M.R.S. §§ 9051 - 9064, and Chapter 19, Section 4.10 of the Maine State Harness Racing Commission Rules. Bangor State Fair requested to remove a day of racing on July 31, 2025.

A quorum of the Commission was present during all stages of the proceedings. Chair Harry B. Center, II, Barry Norris, Patricia Varnum, Don Marean, and Chandler Woodcock participated in the hearing. The Notice of Hearing was posted on the Commission’s website and emailed to interested parties on May 7, 2025. The Notice of Hearing was admitted into evidence without objection as Exhibit 1.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

Shane Bacon, the Commission’s Executive Director, testified that Bangor State Fair requested not to race on July 31, 2025. Bangor State Fair’s May 6, 2025, email request was admitted into evidence without objection as Exhibit 2. Executive Director Bacon explained that the Bangor State Fair made the request because there will be a lot of activity at the Fair on July 30, including a demolition derby, which will take place on the harness racing track. Bangor State Fair is concerned that it will not have time to resurface the track and get it race-ready by the following day. Executive Director Bacon testified that there were five days of racing that week,

so it would not be concerning to lose a day. Additionally, the Sire Stakes 3-year-old Colt Pacers that were scheduled to race that day are in communication with First Tracks to reschedule. He supported Bangor State Fair's request not to race on July 31, 2025.

CONCLUSIONS AND ORDER

Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence in the record, the Commission concluded it was appropriate to reopen the race date proceedings and voted unanimously to do so. Based upon the evidence and testimony presented and upon deliberation, the Commission concludes that Bangor State Fair demonstrated that it is in the best interest of the harness racing industry for it to not conduct racing on July 31, 2025, as there would be safety concerns should the track not be in racing condition.

APPEAL RIGHTS

Any party to this proceeding may seek review of this Decision, to the extent this review is permitted by law, by filing a petition for review in Superior Court pursuant to 5 M.R.S. §§ 11001, *et seq.*, within thirty (30) days after receiving this notice of this Decision. Any other person aggrieved by this Decision may seek judicial review in a manner by filing a petition for review in the Superior Court within forty (40) days after the date of this Decision.

Dated:

May 23, 2025



Harry B. Center II, Chair
Maine State Harness Racing Commission

cc: Members of the Maine State Harness Racing Commission
Chris McGrail, Bangor State Fair
Shane Bacon, Executive Director
Miles Greenleaf, Program Coordinator
Nicole Sawyer, Assistant Attorney General