

MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

IN RE: FIRST TRACKS INC.)
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**ORDER AND DECISION
ON REOPENING RACE
DATES**

INTRODUCTION

On September 23, 2025, the Maine State Harness Racing Commission (“Commission”) considered First Track’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. First Tracks requested to add September 28, 2025 to their live racing schedule and Cumberland Fair not to race on the same date, which would have been an extended meet day for it.

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 September 10, 2025. The Notice of Hearing was admitted into evidence without objection as Exhibit 1.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

Michael Ciachette testified on behalf of First Tracks. He explained that First Tracks lost a commercial meet day due to rain. He discussed this issue with Cumberland Fair, and the Fair was amenable to giving up September 28 as its racing day. Cumberland Fair will be considering whether to hold extended meets in the future. First Tracks’ September 9, 2025 email request was admitted into evidence without objection as Exhibit 2.

CONCLUSIONS AND ORDER

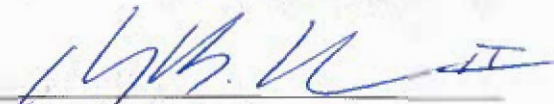
Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence in the record, the Commission concluded it was appropriate to reopen the race date proceedings and voted unanimously to do so. Based upon the evidence and testimony presented and upon deliberation, the Commission concludes that First Tracks demonstrated that it is in the best interest of the harness racing industry for it to race on September 28, 2025 instead of Cumberland Fair as it replaces a date that First Tracks lost due to the weather. The Commission commends the licensees for their cooperation.

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 like manner by filing a petition for review in Superior Court within forty (40) days after the date of this Decision.

Dated:

October 6, 2025



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

cc: Michael Cianchette, First Tracks and Cumberland Fair
Shane Bacon, Executive Director
Nicole Sawyer, Assistant Attorney General