



POCKET GUIDE
to **WAGERING**
on the Ponies

What's going on around *Here?*

OKAY, ENOUGH WITH THE SMALL TALK. Let's get down to business.

The first thing you want to do when you get to the track is look at all the people around you.

THEY are your competition.

Unlike casino gambling where you're betting against the house, horse racing is a pari-mutuel venture. In other – less fancy – words, that means you're betting against everybody else who's betting.

It's like this – all the money that everybody wagers goes into a big pot. If you win, you get a piece of that pot. How big a piece depends on how many other people also win. So somebody, probably a lot of somebodies, is going to be taking home some dough.

We, the track, simply take a modest and well-deserved-if-we-do-say-so-ourselves cut of the total amount wagered. We have no interest in the outcome of the races. We just want everybody to have a great time.

And if you can't have fun here, then perhaps chess is more up your alley. So that's the basic setup. **NOW FOR THE DETAILS.**



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a **BASIC MENU** *of Bets*

Later on in this guide, we'll give you a glossary of horse racing terms. But since this is a wagering guide, let's get to the important stuff first.

WIN: You bet on a horse to finish first.

PLACE: Your horse must finish first OR second.

SHOW: Your horse must finish first, second OR third.

ACROSS THE BOARD: You're betting win, place AND show. If your horse wins, you collect on the win, place AND show bets. If your horse comes in 2nd, you collect on the place and show bets. If 3rd, you collect on the show bet.

The following wagers are called "Exotic Wagers"

DOUBLE: Bet the winners of two consecutive designated races.

QUINELLA: Bet the horses that come in first and second in a race in ANY order.

EXACTA: Bet the horses that come in first and second in a race in the EXACT order.

TRIFECTA: Bet the first three finishers of a race in EXACT order.

SUPERFACTA: Bet the first four finishers of a race in EXACT order.

PICK THREE: Bet the winners of three consecutive races.

PICK FOUR: Bet the winners of four consecutive races.

PICK SIX: Bet the winners of six consecutive races.

BOX: If you have two or more horses that you think will finish in the top spots, but you're not sure of the order, you can box them.

Example One: an Exacta Box on horses #3 and #6. You win if #3 wins and #6 places OR #6 wins and #3 places.

Example Two: Trifecta Box on horses #3, #6 and #7. You win if #3, #6 and #7 come in 1st, 2nd and 3rd in any order.

WHEEL: A bet on one horse with ALL the others in the race. An Exacta wheel #5 with ALL wins if the #5 horse wins and ANY horse comes in 2nd.

KEY OR PART WHEEL: A bet on one horse with SOME of the others. An Exacta part wheel #5 with 2, 3, 4 wins if the #5 horse wins and either the #2, #3 or #4 horse comes in 2nd. A Trifecta key #5 with 2, 3, 4 wins if the #5 horse wins and the #2, #3 or #4 finish 2nd and 3rd in any order.





What to SAY at the Window

Now that you know the types of bets, you'll need to know how to bet. It's really pretty easy.

Once you've decided how you're going to bet, just step up to the window and place your bet in the following order:

FIRST: Say the name of the track.

SECOND: The race number.

THIRD: The amount of your bet. For Win, Place and Show wagers, the minimum amount is \$2. You can usually play exotic wagers (for example, the Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Pick 3) for \$1 units.

FOURTH: The type of bet.

FIFTH: The number of the horse.

So, if you were at Churchill Downs and wanted to bet two dollars on the number 3 horse to come in first in the sixth race, you'd say:

"Churchill Downs, race six, \$2 to WIN on #3. Chop, chop."

Actually, you can skip the "chop, chop" part.

The reason you need to say the name of the track is because many tracks simulcast races from other tracks around the country. You can watch those races on monitors throughout the grandstands. You can bet on those races, too. That's why you need to tell the teller – the person at the window where you bet – what track your bet is for.



*If you have any questions, just ask.
Every track has people on staff who are there to help make it easy.*

***Some* FACTS WORTH Knowing**

- FAVORITES win 36% of the time.
- FAVORITES place (1st or 2nd) 57% of the time.
- FAVORITES show (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) 71% of the time.
- The average EXACTA pays about \$81.15 for a \$2 wager.
- The average TRIFECTA pays about \$608.43 for a \$2 wager.
- The average SUPERFECTA pays about \$4,351.55 for a \$2 wager.
- The average DOUBLE pays about \$87.63 for a \$2 wager.
- The average PICK THREE pays about \$572.72 for a \$2 wager.
- The average PICK FOUR pays about \$3,802.20 for a \$2 wager. The PICK FOUR is becoming an increasingly popular wager.
- The PICK SIX, although difficult to hit, offers the potential for life-altering payouts. In 2009, the average winning pick six payoff was \$37,371.76!

The tips above are intended as a guide to wagering performance based on historical results and do not represent actual or implied future performance. Don't you just love the legal profession?

Life *is* Good!



If you're taking the time to read this, then chances are good that you're open to the idea of heading out to the track and throwing a little money around.

We take that as a very good sign.

After all, it shows you haven't let this politically correct, calorie-counting climate we're living in turn you into a cream puff.

Not that there's anything wrong with cream puffs.

The truth is, horse racing is one of the last bastions of all-out fun. And the track is one of the few places left in this world where you're actually encouraged to scream and yell, flaunt your winnings, taunt your friends, throw caution to the wind and basically enjoy the hell out of yourself.

And maybe win some cold hard cash while you're at it.

No guarantees, but if you play it right, bet smart, and have a little luck come your way, you'll do great. The fact is, statistics show you've got a better chance of winning at the racetrack than you do at any casino.

But even if you don't bring home a suitcase full of C-notes, we're willing to bet you'll have a honkin' good time trying.

This guide will help you get to know the basics of Thoroughbred racing. Stick it in your pocket. Bring it to the track. Place a few bets. And then...

HOW to Talk the Talk

*Here are some of the key terms you'll hear at the track.
Don't worry, you'll be slinging the lingo like a pro in no time.*

BLINKERS: A hood with eye cups worn by a horse and designed to limit a horse's vision, thus preventing distractions. Horses wearing blinkers for the first time usually show more early speed.

CHALK: The wagering favorite in the race.

DEAD HEAT: Two or more horses finishing a race in a tie.

FURLONG: One eighth of a mile (220 yards.) A commonly raced distance is six furlongs, or three quarters of a mile.

INQUIRY: A review of a race by the Stewards (horse racing's version of a referee) to check into a possible rule infraction by a jockey. On such an occasion the "inquiry" sign lights up, on the tote board.

LENGTH: A measurement representing the approximate length of a horse, used to show the distance between horses in a race. The great horse Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes by an astounding 31 lengths.





MAIDEN: A horse that has never won a race. A maiden race is for an entire field of horses who have never won a race.

OBJECTION: Immediately following the race, jockeys may file an objection with the Stewards and request a review of the race to check into a possible rule violation by another participant.

PADDOCK: The area at the track where the horses are saddled before the race. The paddock is a great place to get an up-close look at the horses and jockeys before they head to the track.

PHOTO FINISH: A result so close it is necessary to use a special finish-line camera to determine the exact order of finish.

POST TIME: The time at which the horses have to be at the starting gate, ready to go.

SCRATCH: A horse who has been withdrawn from a race.

SILKS: Colorful jacket and cap worn by jockeys to designate owners of the horse.

TOTE BOARD: Sometimes referred to simply as the "board," this electronic sign displays odds and other important wagering information. Tote boards are usually located in the infield and paddock areas.



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