

**7883.0120 DECLARATIONS AND SCRATCHES.**

Subpart 1. **Procedure for scratching horses.** Scratches and declarations shall be made in writing and signed by the owner or trainer of the horse, the owner's authorized agent, or a commission veterinarian. Each association shall provide forms on which scratches and declarations are to be made, and for all races:

- A. no horse shall be scratched without permission of stewards;
- B. all scratches shall be made by scratch time, designated by the association, except as provided by subparts 2 to 5;
- C. should scratches reduce the body of a race, the horses left in the race shall move into the lower numbered post positions before any horses are drawn from the "also eligibles"; and
- D. should scratches reduce the number of horses in a race below the number designated by the association, then such designated number of horses will be maintained by the drawing of lots from the "also eligibles" list after scratches have occurred and the horses so drawn will be required to race.

Subp. 2. **Scratches from stakes races.** A scratch from an early-closing stakes race shall be made not less than 45 minutes before post time of the race.

Subp. 3. **Horse must be entered in stakes race.** In a stakes race, if a horse is not named through the entry box at the usual time of closing, the horse is automatically out.

Subp. 4. **Nomination may be altered or withdrawn.** A nomination of a horse to a sweepstakes may be altered or withdrawn at any time prior to the closing time for nominations.

Subp. 5. **Stewards may permit withdrawal.** Notwithstanding subpart 1, item B, the stewards may permit the withdrawal of any horse after weighing out for any reason which they determine to be in the best interests of racing.

Subp. 6. **Horse declared nonstarter.** The stewards shall have the authority to declare that a horse is not a starter if they determine that the horse was ineligible to participate in the race or any occurrence before, or during, the running of a race calls for such action by them.

Subp. 7. **Declarations are irrevocable.** The declaration of a horse out of an engagement is irrevocable.

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 240.23; 240.24; 240.29*

**History:** *9 SR 2527; 14 SR 332; 16 SR 2684; 35 SR 627*

**Published Electronically:** *October 26, 2010*