



Commonwealth of Kentucky
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Kentucky Sire Stakes Changes Eligibility Requirements to Include Resident Mares

Lexington, Ky. – (Feb. 19, 2014) – The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (KHRC) announced today that, beginning with the 2014 breeding season, horses by resident mares will be eligible for the Kentucky Sire Stakes. The Kentucky Sire Stakes is a culmination of a month-long series of preliminary races, with the biggest money earners getting a chance to compete in one of the richest finals in North America. The Kentucky Sire Stakes is funded by the Kentucky Standardbred Development Fund (KSDF) and the Kentucky Standardbred Breeders' Incentive Fund (KSBIF) which make up the advisory panel that oversees the nominations process.

Beginning in 2014, the program will accept mare and stallion nominations. The mare must reside in Kentucky for 180 consecutive days during the calendar year and the stallion must reside in Kentucky for the breeding season. The resulting foals will be eligible for nomination to the Kentucky Sire Stakes.

"The advisory panel recognized the need to grow participation, and along with the commission's support, the regulation was amended to include resident mares," said Alan Leavitt, chairman of the advisory panel and KHRC member. "It's an exciting new direction for the program and provides an opportunity for our horses to have dual eligibility in multiple programs in North America."

The KSBIF was implemented in 2005 to ensure the strength and growth of the horse industry in Kentucky. The fund receives 13 percent of the 6 percent sales tax paid when breeding a stallion to a mare in the Commonwealth. The KSDF is funded, in part, by a pari-mutuel tax paid by racetracks in Kentucky. The KSBIF and the KSDF, along with any other money contributed, appropriated or allocated from all other sources, funds the Kentucky Sire Stakes. The Kentucky Sire Stakes is administered by the KHRC.

For more information, including a list of 2013 award winners and statistics on races awarded, visit <http://khrc.ky.gov> or contact Jamie Eads at 859.246.2040 or Jamie.Eads@ky.gov.

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