



# Gaming Commission

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[www.gaming.ny.gov](http://www.gaming.ny.gov)

**John A. Crotty**, Commissioner  
**Peter J. Moschetti, Jr.**, Commissioner  
**John J. Poklemba**, Commissioner  
**Barry Sample**, Commissioner  
**Todd R. Snyder**, Commissioner

**Robert Williams**, Executive Director  
**Edmund C. Burns**, General Counsel

August 9, 2016

Re: **Industry Notification - Adoption of Rulemaking for Use of Hopples in Harness Racing**

To Whom It May Concern:

On July 25, 2016, the New York State Gaming Commission adopted amendments to our current rules on the use of hobbles in harness racing at 9 NYCRR §§ 4113.5(a)(2) and 4117.3. The full text of the proposed rules can be found in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published in the *State Register* on June 1, 2016 (SGC-22-16-00004-P).

The amendments allow the trainer discretion when entering a horse to race to change whether a horse will use hobbles or not, subject to oversight by the Commission judges at the racetrack. The disqualification rule will no longer require the judges' permission for a horse's first use of hobbles. The program will disclose any changes in a horse's use of hobbles.

Please be advised that the new rule will become effective upon publication in the *State Register* on August 10, 2016.

Very truly yours,

Kristen M. Buckley  
Acting Secretary