



September 16, 2021

HBPA Members and Others

By now you would have received an email from the HBPA of BC. It is election time and there has been some confusion and misunderstanding and for that we apologize. Neil Stajkowski our Secretary Treasurer is responsible for the election process and reassures every one of you that this is a fair and responsible vote that no one will be missed if we have your email address, and you are a legitimate member of the HBPA.

COVID 19 has meant we had to do things differently than we had in the past. So instead of a mailout ballot we opted to do an electronic balloting process which was supposed to be simple and foolproof. However, we did run into several glitches.

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be a member -

You must be a licensed owner who has an ownership in a thoroughbred as per our bylaws and constitution. (See below)

"Owner" means an owner of a registered thoroughbred racehorse, who is currently, or was during the preceding six months, licensed as such by the Racing Commission of the Province.

Or;

You must be a trainer of thoroughbred racehorse and licensed as such as per our bylaws and constitution. (See below)

"Trainer" means a trainer of a registered thoroughbred racehorse, who is currently, or was during the preceding six months, licensed as such by the Racing Commission of the Province.

To be perfectly clear we use the following as the definition of thoroughbred racehorse. (See below)

"Thoroughbred racehorse" means a racehorse which is two years of age or older (under applicable rules of racing) which has not been retired from racing to breeding, either as a brood mare or stallion.

So if you do not meet these criteria, as an owner or a trainer then you are ineligible to vote and if you have happened to vote then your vote will not be counted. We will explain below.

The election of Directors for the next 3-year term got off to a rocky start to be clear and that came about after we were advised that GPEB shortly before our stated election date that they would not provide us with an updated listing of owners and trainers nor facilitate a distribution as expected as in the past. They did agree to act as scrutineers and to check the eligibility of everyone who voted so we felt comfortable in sending out more notices than we expected we had members. Once we have the vote completed we will also have an updated list of true members (owners and trainers) pursuant to the by-laws and by committing to keeping an updated list of owners and trainers we will hopefully not face this situation again.

There have also been several other glitches as we worked through this process. There have been questions as a result and so we will try to answer them here.

1. I received notice twice or more often to vote and I have already voted. It appears that you could possibly vote a second time but as we understand it the system will be double checked by the scrutineers. So if your email address and your member number are the same as the original vote then only one of those votes will count.
2. I received a notice saying I had voted and thanking me and now I received a notice saying I have not voted. There are two reasons why this could happen. First you did not actually complete the vote but submitted it and therefore it did not register. Or there was an error where your name was listed twice, and a reminder was sent out. Please check the member number from the first email you received. If you received a different number on the second email/reminder please advise Neil at hbpaineils@gmail.com. Of course we will remove the second listing from our list.
3. I have never been an owner or trainer and never had a license but got a notice. This is an error because we had no way to check this large list against an official list of owners and trainers. On completion of this election, we will eliminate from the list all emails that did not respond, and we have no other information indicating that it belongs to a currently licensed BC Owner or Trainer. Rest assured the scrutineer will be double checking every vote and checking whether you are eligible or not before tallying the vote.

There is nothing in our bylaws or constitution allowing the outgoing Board of Directors to cancel an election while it is underway. All we can do is assure each member that we will do our absolute best to ensure there is only one vote per member and that we have circulated ballots as widely as we can and that the double/triple check of eligibility will happen at the time of verifying members and will be done by the GPEB scrutineer.

Finally, Neil has been directed to extend the time of voting for all electronic ballots to be received to midnight on Monday, September 20, 2021. This will allow us to receive any updates of new email addresses and license numbers and get an electronic ballot out to you. Once the balloting is closed, ballots are all verified, and membership is confirmed then and only then will the ballots be tallied, and results will be known and published on our website.