

**THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS
August 3, 2023**

Recommendation: Track Surface Data

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee commends racetracks that are increasingly using data to formulate plans to optimize the safety and consistency of the racing surfaces. Since the launch of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory in 2009, data regarding racing surface characteristics have factored into track maintenance and safety plans aimed at mitigating injury. Moisture content, cushion depth, particulate matter, penetration, and temperature metrics are among the variables that are carefully monitored by racing associations to ensure safe and consistent surfaces for training and racing.

Data regarding the racing surface is also vital to horsemen and the horses' connections when training and racing plans are developed to ensure the safety and performance of the athletes. In addition, handicappers and the casual fan seek the most accurate information about the racing surface when formulating wagering decisions.

To meet the dual objectives of safety and performance, current data regarding the training and racing surfaces should be made available to the public. Making the details of the racing surface more transparent to the public will benefit all participants and customers in the sport.

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee calls for:

“Each racetrack working with racing surface professionals measure as frequently practicable throughout the day and at distance intervals calculated to best measure the overall consistency of the surface and make available to the public:

For dirt and synthetic surfaces: moisture content, cushion depth, and weather and precipitation conditions (ideally from a national or local weather service).

For turf surfaces: moisture content, penetration, and shear properties.

For all surfaces: summarized maintenance and material replenishment logs.”

Rule 2154 of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority includes requirements for monitoring racing surfaces. The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee today calls for that information to be frequently measured at periodic distances and made available to the public. Working with other key industry stakeholders, The Jockey Club recommends exploring the best method(s) for providing the racing surface data to the horsemen and public, including through an app, website, or other electronic feed.