



# **ROAP 2018 FLAT RACING INTERFERENCE SURVEY PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

**Dan Fick**

**ROAP Chairman & Senior Steward**



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

- **Circulated to all aspects of North American flat horse racing industry this November**
- **549 N.A. responses received (579 Total)**
- **Results were first presented to the ARCI Model Rules Committee on Sunday, December 2nd**



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## Respondents:

<b>Handicappers</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Racing Fans</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Stewards</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Horse Owners</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Racing Officials</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Horse Trainers</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>6%</b>



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**Should all jurisdictions (domestic and international) have the same rule on disqualifications for interference in a race?**

**YES      84%**





# Race Video #1 (Stretch)





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## Race Video #1 (Stretch)

**Disqualify                      77%**

**No Change                      23%**



## Race Video #2 (Stretch)







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## Race Video #2 (Stretch)

**Disqualify                      48%**

**No Change                      52%**





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## Race Video #3 (Turn)





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## Race Video #3 (Turn)

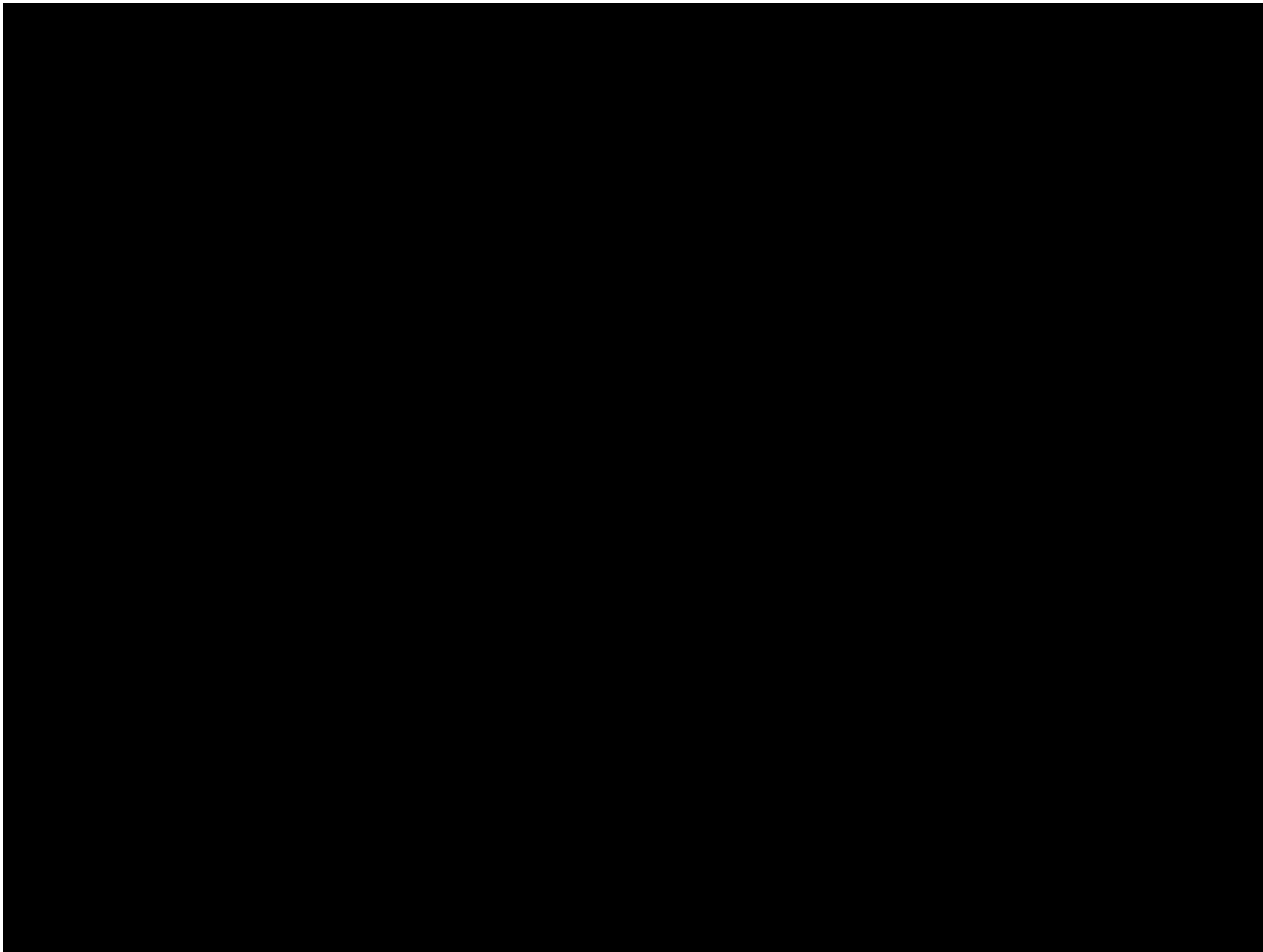
**Disqualify                      38%**

**No Change                      62%**



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## Race Video #4 (Gate)





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## Race Video #4 (Gate)

**Disqualify                      37%**

**No Change                      63%**





# **RACING RULE CHOICE #1**

**A foul is a foul and the offending horse shall be disqualified.**

**Regardless of the severity of the incident, if a foul is committed, the offending horse is disqualified, even if it wins convincingly.**



## **RACING RULE CHOICE #2**

**The offending horse shall be disqualified, if in the opinion of the stewards, the foul altered the finish of the race irrespective of whether the horse that caused the interference is convincing in its placing.**  
Another way to describe is that the offended horse was cost the opportunity for a better placing.



## **RACING RULE CHOICE #3**

**If not for the interference, the offended horse would have beaten the horse causing the interference, then the offending horse shall be disqualified and placed behind the offended horse.** In this instance, the stewards only look at the horses involved in the interference and if one would have beaten the other if not for the interference.



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**1 – A FOUL IS A FOUL.**

**14%**

**2 – AFFECTED THE OUTCOME OF THE RACE.**

**57%**

**3 – DQ ONLY IF OFFENDED HORSE WOULD  
HAVE BEATEN THE WINNER.**

**29%**





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# Limitations and Disclaimers

- **Results are preliminary**
- **Raw data is provided with basic filtering**
- **No conclusions at this time**
- **Limitations of survey**
  - **No order of finish provided**
  - **No margins provided**
  - **Jockey, starter and assistant starter interviews were not available**



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# Take-Aways and Next Steps

- **Over 1800 comments received**
- **When filtering by rule language preference, video results tend to hold constant – could indicate more education is needed on the rule language, rule applications, and what actually constitutes a foul.**
- **ROAP conducting deeper dive into data**
- **Discussion during International Harmonization of Raceday Rules Committee (IHRRC) on Friday, December 7**



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# Thank you

Dan Fick

ROAP Chairman & Senior Steward

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