

Race Types and Frequencies

Getting a Better Understanding of Races Run in California

When it comes right down to it, there are two primary considerations that generally influence what type of races are offered on any given day at a California racetrack. Those considerations include:

- *The need to offer attractive races from a wagering standpoint – meaning greater field size; and,*
- *The more strategically important, but oft-sacrificed, need to provide race opportunities for every category of the horse inventory.*

The challenge to balance these considerations essentially falls to the racing departments, which often find themselves in the middle of a conflict between individual horsemen looking for races for their stock, and management – their bosses – who must conduct successful race meets, strictly from a dollar and cents point of view, and press for fuller fields, even if that means limiting the number of race opportunities for several segments of the inventory.

To complicate matters even more, there are longer-term, strategic considerations about the future of California racing that cannot be overlooked as current race opportunities/programs are shaped. While racing departments focus – as best they can – on balancing these competing needs during their individual meets, it is often TOC that must, and does, take a larger look – a macro view – of all of our meets in the hopes

of obtaining a balance between the business needs of the racing associations and the continuing reinvestment of California owners and breeders. To continue doing so, the latter must have confidence that California's racing industry will continue to provide quality racing opportunities warranting the investment they contemplate making.

In the absence of a formal industry program dedicated to such strategic considerations, it is TOC's duty to ensure that "California's racing programs" remain competitive, both near and long-term, including the construction of race programs that offer racing opportunities that incentivize owners and breeders to remain active and involved.

The following charts are an elementary example of some of the data accumulated and analyzed by TOC as part of an ongoing process of race and inventory analysis. The data has been provided by CHRIMS (California Horse Racing Information Management System). The two charts provide a broad look at race types and frequencies for races run at major Thoroughbred meets, in both Northern and Southern California, in 2007. We have printed them in their simplest form to facilitate understanding.

For those interested in more detail, similar charts for 2006 can be accessed online at toconline.com.

2007 Northern California						
	GG Winter (31 Days)	BM Spring (48 Days)	GG Spring (35 Days)	BM Summer (52 Days)	GG Fall (30 Days)	Total
2yo	10	3	13	67	56	149
Allowance	2	3	8	17	17	47
Claiming	8		4	48	37	97
Stakes			1	2	2	5
3yo	61	130	79	41	18	329
Allowance	17	24	20	10		71
Claiming	40	101	55	29	18	243
Optional Claiming		3				3
Stakes	4	2	4	2		12
3yo & up	32	35	211	323	182	783
Allowance	6	10	27	56	34	133
Claiming	25	21	165	261	143	615
Optional Claiming		4	12			16
Stakes	1		7	6	5	19
4yo & up	165	241				406
Allowance	21	27				48
Claiming	134	194				328
Classified Handicap		3				3
Optional Claiming	8	10				18
Over Night Handicap	2	5				7
Stakes		2				2
Total	268	409	303	431	256	1667

2007 Southern California						
	SA Winter (85 Days)	HOL Spring (63 Days)	DMR Summer (43 Days)	OT Fall (31 Days)	HOL Fall (31 Days)	Total
2yo	25	52	62	65	81	285
Allowance	17	25	9	21	37	109
Claiming	4	23	45	36	37	145
Stakes	4	4	8	8	7	31
3yo	249	76	47	30	29	431
Allowance	87	16	5	5	4	117
Claiming	124	35	30	23	22	234
Classified Handicap		5	1			6
Optional Claiming	15	4	1			20
Stakes	23	16	10	2	3	54
3yo & up	55	297	199	176	164	891
Allowance	36	118	67	67	76	364
Claiming	15	112	82	88	76	373
Classified Handicap	2	19	6	2		29
Optional Claiming		18	20			38
Stakes	2	30	24	19	12	87
4yo	55					55
Claiming	51					51
Stakes	4					4
4yo & up	386	137	59			582
Allowance	102	24				126
Claiming	165	96	59			320
Classified Handicap	30					30
Optional Claiming	48	12				60
Stakes	41	5				46
Total	770	562	367	271	274	2244