# 2026 Bill Wise American Saddlebred Sweepstakes Rules

## OBJECTIVES

The Sweepstakes are designed to perpetuate the breeding, training and showing of the American Saddlebred horse.

Breeders particularly benefit from these classes as nominated horses eligible to compete for large purses demand higher prices; even though a horse is sold prior to a Sweepstakes class, the nominator will receive half the purse. The nominator is the owner of record at the time each nomination payment is made.

## ELIGIBILITY

Two-Year-Old Sweepstakes: Open to American Saddlebred yearlings that have been assigned a registration number and DNA testing results completed with ASHBA before the nomination closing date of December 31 of the horse's yearling year.

Three-Year-Old Sweepstakes: Open to American Saddlebred yearlings that have been assigned a registration number and DNA testing results completed with ASHBA before the nomination closing date of March 1 of the horse's yearling year.

Four-Year-Old Sweepstakes: Open to American Saddlebred three-year-olds that have been assigned a registration number and DNA testing results completed with ASHBA before the nomination closing date of March 1 of the horse's three-year-old year.

## MANAGEMENT

The Bill Wise American Saddlebred Sweepstakes is managed by a Committee representing owners, breeders, professional horsemen, under the supervision of the Kentucky State Fair Board.

The value of the prize fund each year shall be the total amount of money paid in fees, miscellaneous funds, added donations, and interest, less administrative costs.

The site for each competition is selected by the Committee, taking into consideration the facilities offered and the promotional value of a specific location. The classes will be judged in accordance with the American Saddlebred breed rules of the sanctioning organization selected by the participating horse shows. The Committee reserves the right to review the judges selected by these shows.

## CLASSES OFFERED/CONFORMATION JUDGING

Two-year-olds that have been nominated by their respective deadlines and fulfilled the payment requirements may show in one of the following classes, Fine Harness or Three-Gaited Park. Three and four-year-olds that have been nominated by their respective deadlines and fulfilled the payment requirements may show in one of the following classes: Three Gaited; Five Gaited; Fine Harness or Three-Gaited Park Pleasure. All entries are to be stripped and judged on conformation. Only two attendants per horse.

Judging specifications for the FINE HARNESS, FIVE GAITED AND THREE-GAITED divisions of the Sweepstakes shall read: performance, conformation, presence, quality, and manners. Horses competing in the Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Year-Old Three Gaited Sweepstakes may be shown with a full mane.

Judging specifications for the PARK PLEASURE division of the Sweepstakes shall read: manners, performance, conformation, presence, and quality.

Judging specifications for the PARK division of the Two-Year-Old Sweepstakes shall read: performance, conformation, presence, quality, and manners.

## PURSE DISTRIBUTION

The nomination money paid into the Sweepstakes program will remain with that program to be paid out in the following manner: The money received for the nomination of all horses for the Two-Year-Old Sweepstakes, plus interest, minus expenses, will be divided two ways with the breakdown as follows: one half to the Fine Harness Division and one half to the Three Gaited Park Division.

The money received for the nomination of all horses for the Three and Four-Year-Old Sweepstakes, plus interest, minus expenses, will be divided four ways with the breakdown as follows: one fourth to the Three-Gaited Division, one fourth to the Five Gaited Division, one fourth to the Fine Harness Division and one fourth to the Three-Gaited Park Pleasure Division.

The first-place winner in each class will receive 40% of the purse; second place 30%; third place 20%, fourth place 5%; and fifth place 5%. The person who is the recorded owner at the time of competition will receive one half of the purse; the persons who were owners of record at the time each nomination payment was made will receive equal shares of the remaining one half of the purse. Should there be fewer than five entries showing in a class, the entries that do show will share the remainder of the prize fund in the same proportion designated to the place they have won. The total purse for each year will be paid, regardless of the number shown. If an entry is disqualified for a forbidden substance or for any other reason, all premium money, trophies, and ribbons are forfeited and must be returned upon notification.

# Payments and Deadlines

## TWO-YEAR-OLD SWEEPSTAKES PAYMENTS

PAYMENT OPTIONS: $200.00 due December 31

## THREE-YEAR-OLD SWEEPSTAKES PAYMENTS

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
$500.00 due March 1 of horse's yearling year
***OR***
$200.00 due March 1 of horse's yearling year
$200.00 due March 1 of horse's two-year-old year
$200.00 due March 1 of horse's three-year-old year

## FOUR-YEAR-OLD SWEEPSTAKES PAYMENTS

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
$500.00 due March 1 of horse's three-year-old year
***OR***
$250.00 due March 1 of horse's three-year-old year
$250.00 due March 1 of horse's four-year-old year
***OR***
$5,000 Buy-In option due January 31 of the horse's four-year-old year

### DEADLINES

Payment can be made by check, money order, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. A $25.00 service charge will be assessed on any returned checks and added to the total due. All payments must be made payable and sent to the Bill Wise Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 37130, Louisville, Kentucky 40233, and bear postmark before midnight of date due. **No entry is liable for more than the amount paid in, but there will be no return payment. A 3% processing fee will be added to all Prize Program credit/debit card transactions.**

The nomination and eligibility fee payments will be held open for a 30-day penalty period following the normal closing date with an additional $100.00 penalty per horse, per nomination. Entries received bearing a postmark later than the last day of the penalty period will not be accepted for any reason whatsoever. In the event the closing date or penalty period closing date falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, postmark bearing the date of the following day will be accepted. A U.S. Postal Service postmark supersedes a postage, meter date. **It is strongly recommended to mail payments and nominations by certified mail or another mail carrier with tracking.**

**ENTRIES WILL BE DELETED AUTOMATICALLY WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE IF PAYMENT IS NOT POSTMARKED BY THE U. S. POSTAL SERVICE ON OR BEFORE THE LAST DATE OF THE PENALTY PERIOD. THIS RULE IS STRICTLY ENFORCED. IF A NOMINATED HORSE IS SOLD, IT IS THE SELLER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE NEW OWNER OF PAYMENT DUE DATES.**

**ENTRIES CAN BE MADE ELECTRONICALLY BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP WEBSITE.**

**ASHBA membership is required for participation in the Bill Wise American Saddlebred Sweepstakes.**