



March 23, 2022

Steve May
Executive Director
Minnesota Racing Commission
15201 Zurich St.
Suite 212
Columbus, MN 55025

Request for a Variance to Minn. R. 7895.0250 subp. 2 B

Dear Mr. May

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §14.056 North Metro Harness Initiative Inc. (North Metro) is requesting a variance to Minn. R. 7895.0250 subp. 2 B which states that the Standardbred Breeders' Fund be divided as follows:

25 percent be paid to breeders as breeders' awards and

75 percent be paid to supplement purses in races that are restricted to horses that are Minnesota-bred.

North Metro seeks a variance to the second portion of the rule requiring Standardbred Breeders' Fund monies be used only in Minnesota restricted races. North Metro would seek a variance to allow for such monies to be paid to Minnesota-bred horses that run in open company races. North Metro request that the variance stay in place until the rule can be changed to allow for such payments. The variance would be reasonable in that only Minnesota breeders will receive the purse money and that is in keeping with the reason the rule was promulgated; to encourage Standardbred breeding in Minnesota. The variance would motivate breeders to breed horses that can compete with the improving quality of horses being drawn to Running Aces racing program. All Minnesota Standardbred Breeders' Fund money would continue to be paid only to Minnesota breeders. Indeed, there has been precedent of allowing such bonus payments in open company races.

North Metro is not aware of any other similar variances in Commission history and North Metro does not believe that anyone would be adversely affected by the grant of the variance.

Thank you for your attention to the matter and if you require anything further, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Carpenito, Director of Racing