



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 3769-2-23 License qualifications for trainer, assistant trainer, second trainer, and horseshoer.

Effective: June 15, 2025

(A) Thoroughbred

(1) Each trainer, assistant trainer, or horseshoer desiring a license will make application for a license in writing on a form provided by the commission. The assistant trainer will have the same qualifications as a trainer. Upon satisfactory completion of this application form, all trainer or assistant trainer applicants have to provide written proof they have worked as a groom or in some other type of apprentice capacity for a minimum of two years prior to applying for a trainer or assistant trainer license. After providing proof of the necessary two years of groom or apprentice training and after having satisfactorily completed the application form, each trainer and assistant trainer will take the examinations and/or tests needed by the Ohio state racing commission. Satisfactory passing of the test qualifies the applicant to be licensed.

(2) No trainer or assistant trainer license will be issued to an applicant until the applicant is designated by the owner or trainer as the trainer of a horse eligible to race in a parimutuel race in Ohio.

(3) The applicant will state their full name, address, age, and whether or not they are at the time of application under suspension, set down, ruled off, or are otherwise ineligible for licensing in any jurisdiction. The applicant will also set forth in the application any other information or data concerning their past record, experience, and qualifications as may be needed by the commission. The applicant will sign the application and may be requested to affirm the truth of all statements.

(4) An applicant for a trainer or assistant trainer license may be issued an Ohio license without complying with paragraph (A) of this rule provided they have held a valid license in the same category from another state or other racing jurisdiction which has competency testing or similar qualifications, or from another state or other racing jurisdiction where the applicant obtains a written statement of their competence from a state steward in that state or jurisdiction.



(5) A licensed assistant trainer assumes the same duties and responsibilities as imposed on the holder of a trainer's license. The licensed trainer is jointly responsible with their assistant trainer involving a racing matter.

(6) An applicant for a horseshoer license will provide written proof they have completed an apprenticeship lasting a minimum of one year and pass any test or examination needed by the commission. These may be waived by the commission, provided the applicant has held a valid license issued in any jurisdiction that has competency testing or similar qualifications for horseshoer applicants; or obtained from a state steward in another jurisdiction a written statement certifying the applicant's competence as a horseshoer.

(7) Each trainer, assistant trainer, or horseshoer has to provide worker's compensation coverage in accordance with Ohio law for all of their employees who are connected with racing. Upon request of the commission the applicant for these licenses have to provide satisfactory proof of coverage.

(8) Pony Person: The person who, after being approved by the outrider and stewards of having competent riding ability, rides a pony alongside a racehorse during post parade and in morning training.

(B) Standardbred

(1) Each driver-trainer, trainer without driving rights, or horseshoer desiring a license will make application for a license in writing on a form provided by the commission. All applicants will state their full name, address, age, and whether or not they, at time of their application are under suspension, revoked, ruled off or otherwise debarred from training or driving in any jurisdiction. They will also set forth in their application other information or data concerning their past record, their experience and qualifications, as may be needed by the commission. All applicants have to sign the application and may have to affirm the truth of all statements.

(2) No trainer or assistant trainer license will be issued to an applicant until the applicant is designated by the owner or trainer as the trainer or assistant trainer of a horse eligible and entered to race in a parimutuel race in Ohio.



(3) A licensed second trainer assumes the same duties and responsibilities as imposed on the holder of a trainer's license. The licensed trainer is jointly responsible with their assistants for all acts and omissions of their assistant and involving a racing matter.

(4) Any person who trains horses solely owned by themselves, or their spouse who engages catch drivers to drive their horses may make application for a license as a trainer without driving rights after passing any test the presiding judge may need. This applicant may perform all duties of a licensed driver-trainer except drive in races and is the absolute insurer of and responsible for the condition of the horses entered in a race as outlined in rule 3769-18-02 of the Administrative Code.

(5) An applicant for a horseshoer's license who has not been previously licensed in this state has to have a written statement of two reputable persons to the effect that the applicant is personally known to them, that they are a person of good reputation, and capable of performance of the vocation they seek to follow. The applicant will be tested by a board consisting of a veterinarian, trainer, and a licensed horseshoer, or other qualified person appointed by the board of judges.

(6) An applicant for a horseshoer license may be issued an Ohio license without being tested in the manner provided in paragraph (B)(5) of this rule, providing he/she has a current valid horseshoer license from another state or racing jurisdiction, which has competency testing or similar qualifications for horseshoer applicants in that state, or from which racing jurisdiction the applicant obtains a written statement of his/her competence from a presiding judge in that state or jurisdiction.

(7) Each trainer, assistant trainer, or horseshoer has to provide worker's compensation coverage in accordance with Ohio law for all of their employees who are connected with racing. Upon request of the commission the applicant for these licenses has to provide satisfactory proof of coverage.

(8) Driver: An applicant will take the examinations and/or tests needed by the Ohio state racing commission demonstrating the requisite skills necessary to control a standardbred racehorse as evidenced by passing the USTA examinations or equivalent organization and having been issued those qualifications by the USTA or an equivalent organization.

(C) General



- (1) Announcer: Capable of calling the races, and communicating with the Stewards/Judges to inform the public of any changes or incidents that have occurred.
- (2) Concession Employee: Serves the public, handles currency.
- (3) Dentist: Maintains a horses teeth.
- (4) Director of Racing: Responsible for ensuring racing positions and officials are properly staffed. Communicates with horsemen, the public, and racing officials.
- (5) General Manager: Responsible for management of the permit holders property and obligations by the permit holder.
- (6) Groom: Responsible for the day-to-day physical care of the horses, working under the supervision of their trainer employer.
- (7) Horsemen's Bookkeeper: Responsible for conducting the duties of maintaining the books of the horsemen, ensuring proper payments to horsemen, and other duties the permit holder may need.
- (8) Maintenance: Maintains the facilities of the permit holder.
- (9) Mutuel Employee: Accepts wagers from patrons.
- (10) Photographer: Takes official winning horse pictures and other promotional pictures the permit holder may request.
- (11) Veterinarian Assistant: Does non-veterinarian duties to assist a veterinarian.
- (12) Videographer: Videos the live races and ensures the videos are viewable to the public.