



MATCH IS BACK

The Highly Acclaimed Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championship Series Returns in 2018

For Immediate Release

FEBRUARY 20, 2018 The highly popular MATCH Series (Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships) is returning in 2018 after a 16-year hiatus.

The Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and its affiliates in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania; Maryland Jockey Club (Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park); Delaware Park; Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment (Parx); Penn National Gaming (Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course); Darby Development (Monmouth Park); Eldorado Resorts (Presque Isle Downs & Casino); and the Pennsylvania Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association are proud to announce their joint participation after regional discussions during the past six months led to an agreement to revive the MATCH Series and expand cooperation among all stakeholders in the Mid-Atlantic region.



The MATCH Series, which debuted in 1997 and ran for five years, is an innovative regional racing series and the only one of its kind in racing that combines rich stakes and bonuses for participating owners and trainers over a five-month span. Horses competing in MATCH earn points based on participation and order of finish, and the leading points earners in each of the series divisions, as well as the overall owner and trainer points leaders, win lucrative bonuses.

The 2018 series will be contested among five divisions: 3-Year-Olds & Up Long—Dirt; 3-Year-Olds & Up Sprint—Dirt; 3-Year-Olds & Up Fillies and Mares Sprint—Dirt; 3-Year Olds & Up Sprint—Turf; and 3-Year-Olds and Up Fillies and Mares Sprint—Turf. Each division will have five races from mid-May through mid-September (the Series schedule is attached).

Total purse money is \$2.9 million. Horsemen will compete for \$450,000 in bonus money, all contributed by the participating horsemen's organizations.

The first-, second- and third-place owners, respectively, in each division will earn \$20,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000. The top three earning trainers will earn \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively.

The MATCH Series overall top earning owner will win \$50,000, while the top earning trainer will earn \$25,000. Previous series winners included trainers Graham Motion and Ben Perkins Jr., and owners Arthur Appleton and Sam Huff.

MATCH will debut Preakness Stakes weekend at Pimlico with the Skipat Stakes and the Jim McKay Turf Sprint on May 18, Black-Eyed Susan Day. It will continue on May 19, Preakness Day, with The Very One Stakes and the Maryland Sprint Stakes.

The series will be contested throughout the summer at Delaware Park, Laurel Park, Monmouth Park, Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle, culminating with Championship Weekend, Sept. 15-16 at Laurel, Parx and Presque Isle. The participating tracks have all agreed to support the MATCH Series divisions and not run races in competition with them. Participating horsemen will have a regional roadmap of stakes for their horses from May to September.

Racing directors at each of the participating tracks worked together to select divisions that could provide the least amount of overlap and, hopefully, larger fields for all concerned.

"I am delighted that the series is returning," said MATCH creator and THA Chairman Alan Foreman. "The Mid-Atlantic region has been working cooperatively on so many levels during the past five years, and the renewal of MATCH is a further testament to this cooperation. I am pleased that we are able to tell the horsemen who have asked about MATCH so many times over recent years that it is back, and we are looking forward to a great competition."

Further details and the launch of www.matchseries.com will be forthcoming shortly. For further information, contact Alan Foreman at 410-336-0525 or 410-356-8866; alan@tharacing.com; or Tom LaMarra at 859-492-8365; tomlamarra@gmail.com.

A Partnership of Horsemen's Associations and Racetracks



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\$450,000 In Additional Bonuses Up For Grabs For Owners and Trainers

3-Year-Old & Up Long - Dirt Division

5/26/18	Salvator Mile	G3	\$100,000	3YO & Up	1 Mile	Dirt	Monmouth Park
6/30/18	Philip H. Iselin Stakes	G3	\$100,000	3YO & Up	1 1/16 Mi.	Dirt	Monmouth Park
7/29/18	Monmouth Cup	G3	\$150,000	3YO & Up	1 1/8 Mi.	Dirt	Monmouth Park
8/25/18	DeBunda President's Cup		\$100,000	3YO & Up	1 1/16 Mi.	Dirt	Parx
9/16/18	Presque Isle Mile		\$200,000	3YO & Up	1 Mile	Dirt	Presque Isle Downs

3-Year-Old & Up Fillies and Mares Sprint - Dirt Division

5/18/18	Skipat Stakes		\$100,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	6 Furlongs	Dirt	Pimlico
6/17/18	Regret Stakes		\$75,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	6 Furlongs	Dirt	Monmouth Park
7/7/18	Dashing Beauty Stakes		\$75,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	6 Furlongs	Dirt	Delaware Park
8/12/18	Satin & Lace Stakes		\$100,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	6 Furlongs	Dirt	Presque Isle Downs
9/15/18	Roamin Rachel Stakes		\$100,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	6 Furlongs	Dirt	Parx

3-Year-Old & Up Sprint - Turf Division

5/18/18	Jim McKay Turf Sprint		\$100,000	3YO & Up		5 Furlongs	Turf	Pimlico
6/2/18	Pennsylvania Governor's Cup		\$200,000	3YO & Up		5 Furlongs	Turf	Penn National
7/7/18	Parx Dash Stakes	G3	\$200,000	3YO & Up		5 Furlongs	Turf	Parx
7/29/18	Wolf Hill Stakes		\$75,000	3YO & Up		5 1/2 Furlongs	Turf	Monmouth Park
9/15/18	Laurel Dash Stakes		\$100,000	3YO & Up		6 Furlongs	Turf	Laurel Park

3-Year-Old & Up Fillies and Mares Sprint - Turf Division

5/19/18	The Very One Stakes		\$100,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	5 Furlongs	Turf	Pimlico
6/2/18	Penn Ladies Dash		\$100,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	5 Furlongs	Turf	Penn National
7/7/18	Turf Amazon Stakes		\$100,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	5 Furlongs	Turf	Parx
8/11/18	Incredible Revenge Stakes		\$75,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	5 1/2 Furlongs	Turf	Monmouth Park
9/15/18	Sensible Lady Turf Dash		\$100,000	3YO & Up	Fillies and Mares	6 Furlongs	Turf	Laurel Park

3-Year-Old & Up Sprint - Dirt Division

5/19/18	Maryland Sprint Stakes	G3	\$150,000	3YO & Up		6 Furlongs	Dirt	Pimlico
6/17/18	Mr. Prospector Stakes		\$75,000	3YO & Up		6 Furlongs	Dirt	Monmouth Park
7/14/18	Hockessin Stakes		\$75,000	3YO & Up		6 Furlongs	Dirt	Delaware Park
8/12/18	Polynesian Stakes		\$100,000	3YO & Up		7 Furlongs	Dirt	Laurel Park
9/15/18	DeFrancis Memorial Dash	G3	\$250,000	3YO & Up		6 Furlongs	Dirt	Laurel Park

For complete rules, news, bonuses
and detailed race information visit:

matchseries.com 



2018 Series Rules:

1. There is no special nomination required to compete in the MATCH Series. Nominations to stakes in the MATCH Series are to be made in accordance with the procedures established by the track where they are run.
2. Points are earned per horse on each race in each division in the MATCH series by finishing:

First:	10 points
Second:	7 points
Third:	5 points
Fourth:	3 points
Fifth:	2 points
Sixth-Last:	1 point
3. A horse must participate in at least three races within its division to be eligible for bonus money awards.
4. Bonus points will also be awarded for horses that participate in four or more MATCH Series races in a division, regardless of finish. These points are awarded in addition to points earned by placings:

5 Starts:	7 bonus points
4 Starts:	5 bonus points
5. If a race is canceled for whatever reason, the race will be rescheduled if at all possible.
6. If a horse is disqualified after the race is made official, the points will be redistributed based upon final placement.
7. Points earned in different divisions or by different horses can not be combined for year end totals for owner or trainer bonus money awards.
8. Bonus money earned by a horse that is sold and/or changes trainer during the series will be distributed pro rata based upon the number of points earned by each owner and/or trainer.
9. No horse which has earned points in a division will be denied the opportunity to start in a series race in that division unless the horse is ineligible for bonus money. Otherwise, starting preference will be given to high weights in handicaps, and the highest earnings in 2017-2018 allowance stakes. None of the events will be split into divisions.
10. In the event of a dead heat, points will be added for the positions that are involved in the dead heat and then divided by the number of horses in the dead heat.

2018 Bonus Money Distribution:

Bonus money will be awarded to the owners and trainers of the top three points earners in each of the five MATCH Series divisions based on points earned in their division.

<u>Finish</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
1st	\$20,000	\$15,000
2nd	15,000	10,000
3rd	10,000	5,000

In the event of ties within divisions, tie breakers will be determined in the following order:

- (1) Number of wins in the division.
- (2) Number of starts in the division.
- (3) Highest earnings in the division.

Additionally, bonus money will be awarded to the owner and trainer of the overall top points earner. This is in addition to money earned as a division winner.

<u>Finish</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
1st	\$50,000	\$25,000

In the event of a tie for MATCH grand champion, the tie breaker will be determined as follows:

- (1) Number of wins in the division.
- (2) Number of starts in the division.
- (3) Number of seconds in the division.