

8. TOTE STANDARDS

To optimize simulcast operations in the pari-mutuel industry, regulations and procedures need to be standardized as much as possible. Although this is true in all segments of simulcasting, specific actions have been ongoing with respect to tote standards. Tote standards refer to any rules, regulations, or procedures developed to address issues related to the staffing, operation, and monitoring of totalisator equipment.

Model Rules and the Tote Standards Committee

The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI), through its Tote Standards Committee, has developed a set of Model Rules for pari-mutuel wagering. The purpose of the Model Rules is to standardize the regulatory issues between different jurisdictions. The Tote Standards Committee reviews the model periodically and amends them as needed.

The ARCI also facilitated the tote companies in developing a standard Inter-Tote System Protocol (ITSP) which facilitates the transfer of wagering information between the various tote systems. Versions 5.14-b and later contain special reconciliation software. Efforts are now underway to draft ITSP 6.0, which will completely integrate North American and European pari-mutuel operations.

To achieve uniform tote standards, the Pari-mutuel industry needs to do two things. First, individual wagering outlets must decide what specific regulations and/or procedures are applicable and needed for their own particular operation. Special requirements or amendments to standard tote rules or procedures should be forwarded to the ARCI Tote Standards Committee for consideration and incorporation into the Model Rules. Second, once the ARCI finalizes and adopts Model Rules, individual license holders need to actively encourage their local commissions to adopt these rules.

Areas of Concern For Tote Standards Committee

The ARCI Tote Standards Committee is working on issues and procedures which include the following categories:

- **Hardware:** What equipment is essential and how is it secured;
- **Software:** How software is developed, installed, and used to control the system;
- **Reports:** Which reports are produced, available, and what formats work best;
- **Data Transfer (Tote data dumped to a PC):** What is requested, what does tote need to do;
- **Personnel and Their Duties:** Who is in charge and what do they need to know and do.

A copy of the latest Model Rules chapter on Tote Standards, as well as ITSP 5.18, is available on this disc.