

# CHAPTER 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.

### ***I. Model Pari-Mutuel Rules and the Tote Standards Committee***

The Model Pari-Mutuel Rules are published by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI). The Model Rules are maintained on the University of Arizona, Race Track Industry Program's web-site, <http://www.ua-rtip.org> and are meant to be utilized by the entire pari-mutuel industry.

The purpose of the Model Rules is to standardize the regulatory issues between different jurisdictions. Proposals for new rules or amendments to existing rules should be submitted to the Association of Racing Commissioners International, 2343 Alexandria Drive, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40504-3276.

Prior to being included as a Model Rule, the proposal will first be reviewed by the Model Rule Committee and a recommended action taken to both organizations. Only after RCI formally adopts the proposed rule will it be included as a Model Pari-Mutuel Rule.

Through its Tote Standard Committee, the RCI assisted 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, as outlined in Chapter 5 of this manual.

### ***II. Areas of Concern For Tote Standards Committee***

The RCI 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 Pari-Mutuel Wagering and the syntax and protocol document for ITSP versions 5.18 and 5.19, are available in the “Referenced Documents” folder on this disc.**

### **III. Wagering Transmission Protocol™**

Wagering Transmission Protocol™ (WTP) is a communications protocol currently in development that is designed to replace ITSP and support the transmission of detailed wager requests to the Host Racetrack. This support extends from the Host data center to the point of the retail terminal.

#### **A. “Host In Control” Technology**

WTP places the pari-mutuel host racetrack in control of the validation of all wagering detail. The protocol overhauls the current wagering technology environment by migrating from “store and forward” pool transmissions to systems that transmits wager detail from the point of sale to the host track. The wager request is validated and the host authorizes the retail point of sale to issue the wager, thus creating a “host in control” wagering environment.

As background, WTP was developed in response to the Pick Six scandal of 2002 to improve the security of North American wagering pools. The WTP Working Group, comprised of representatives from eight North American horse racing organizations, worked with tote companies and regulators to devise a pari-mutuel protocol supporting wagering detail rather than pool summaries. This process culminated with the release of WTP 1.0.

#### **B. Benefits of WTP**

The following are benefits of WTP technology:

- Host is in control of wagering data at the point of sale;
- Increased breakdown of all wagering data (e.g. bet types);
- Faster reporting of odds information and the ability to display accurate real-time decimal odds for all pools;
- Ability to ensure the real-time recording of wagers;
- Verification of approved betting devices prior to processing wagers;
- Centralized transmission of electronic wagering information for tote and terminal set-up;
- Open architecture network configuration to allow for the integration of Customer Interface Devices (CIDs).

WTP’s steering committee consists of representatives from Churchill Downs Incorporated; Magna Entertainment Corp.; New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority; New York Racing Association; National Thoroughbred Racing Association, Inc.; The Jockey Club; Woodbine Entertainment Group; and, Thoroughbred Racing Associations of North America, Inc. on behalf of its members. WTP will be licensed for non-exclusive use at no charge in perpetuity for all companies participating in legal pari-mutuel wagering. The current version of WTP is accessible online for viewing and downloading at <http://www.tra-online.com/WTP10.pdf>