

Principles to remember when wagering at the track

by Phillip W. Weiss

- 1. How a horse will perform during a race is unpredictable.**
- 2. Understand and master the basic laws of probability.**
- 3. Past performance is no predictor of future outcome.**
- 4. Bet to win, not to make money.**
- 5. Keep bets simple.**
- 6. Become familiar with meet statistics.**
- 7. Develop a habit of picking winners.**
- 8. Heavy favorites can and often lose.**
- 9. Heavy longshots can and often win.**
- 10. Odds posted prior to a race have no bearing on outcome.**
- 11. Be sober.**
- 12. Winning horses lose.**
- 13. Losing horses win.**
- 14. Bet small.**
- 15. Bet conservatively.**
- 16. Do not treat horse racing like casino gambling.**
- 17. Learn to appreciate the esthetics of horse racing.**
- 18. Learn the fundamentals of horse racing.**
- 19. Respect the work of the jockeys, trainers, handlers, etc.**
- 20. Understand that in any given race the difference between finishing first place and last place is usually less than 2 seconds.**
- 21. Understand that on any given day any well-trained race horse in good health can win any race.**
- 22. Be sober.**
- 23. Refrain from consuming tobacco products.**
- 24. Celebrate after picking a winner, not before.**
- 25. Take betting seriously.**
- 26. Respect the horses as well-trained athletes.**
- 27. No one can force a horse to run.**
- 28. Closely observe the horses in the paddock and on parade.**
- 29. Aim to win but be prepared to lose.**
- 30. Take horse racing seriously.**
- 31. Be thankful for having the capability and resources to be a player.**
- 32. Understand that winning a horse race is one of the most difficult feats to accomplish in sports.**
- 33. Understand that the odds of a foal becoming a winning race horse is several thousand to one.**
- 34. NEVER take picking a win for granted.**
- 35. Understand that picking a winner has to do with luck.**

