



ILLINOIS RACING BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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For More Information:
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Illinois Racing Board Approves 2026 Race Dates

Chicago, IL – On Thursday September 18, 2025, The Illinois Racing Board met to consider three applications for 2026 racing dates. With a 9-0 vote the Board approved the following race dates for 2026:

FAIRMOUNT PARK, INC.- 57 live thoroughbred race programs with 7 races per day minimum.

- April 14th through October 27th- Racing 2 days per week on Tuesdays and Saturdays with a post time of 1:30 PM.

HAWTHORNE RACE COURSE, INC. - 63 race programs and 365 total host programs from January 1st through December 31st.

- January 1st through March 28th – dark host time. No live racing.
- March 29th through November 1st, racing 2 days a week on Sundays and Thursdays.
- Post Time of 2:40 PM.

SUBURBAN DOWNS, INC. - 34 race programs and 365 total host programs from January 1 through December 31.

- Saturday, January 3rd through Sunday, February 15th, racing 2 nights per week with a post time of 7:10 PM.
- Friday, November 6th through Saturday, November 28th, racing 3 nights per week on Fridays, Saturday, and Sunday. Post time of 7:10 PM.
- Sunday, November 29th through Sunday, December 27th racing 2 nights per week on Saturdays and Sundays. Post time of 7:10 PM

“Today the Illinois Racing Board approved a 2026 race schedule that provides racing opportunities Downstate and for both breeds in Cook County.” said Executive Director, Domenic DiCera. “I want to thank everyone involved for working to create a schedule that will ensure the growth of Illinois racing today and into the future.”

For more information, please visit www.illinois.gov/IRB or contact Bob Denneen (312) 814-5017.

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