

# 101 Ways to

# Play Wise™



**Way #11**  
**Understanding**  
**Harness Racing.**

19+



# What is Pari-mutuel Wagering?

Wagering on harness racing is a bit different than other types of betting. It's based on pari-mutuel wagering.

Pari what? That means that you're betting against other individuals who wager on horses in the same race.

All wagers on a race go into individual pools, based on the types of bet placed. All the money wagered on win tickets goes into a win pool. Money wagered on place tickets goes into a place pool and so on. Each pool is then paid out to the winning ticketholders after the track deducts a small percentage in provincial and federal taxes as well as tax commissions. The amount of money in any given pool plays a factor in the amount paid out.



## Way #33

**Know that liking a horse's name and liking their chances are unrelated.**



## Understanding the Odds

The odds listed in the race program are the “morning line” odds. These are the odds placed on the horses by the track’s Race Secretary prior to the program being published and before any wagering starts.

On race day, the odds will be posted on the tote board before the race; they change based on customers bets right up until post time when betting is locked by the tote system. The horse that customers have bet the most money on is called the “favorite”. This horse will have the lowest odds. Remember having the best odds does not mean your horse will win.

There are no sure things in betting. For example: a horse with 2 to 1 odds has a higher chance of winning than one with 5 to 1 odds but the outcome is not guaranteed.

The odds are also what determine winning payouts. For example:

*You bet on a winning horse that enters the race at 5 to 1. For every dollar wagered on that horse to win, the winning ticket holder would receive about \$5. For a \$2 winning ticket on a 5 to 1 horse, you would win about \$12 ( $\$2 \times 5 + \text{your } \$2 \text{ bet}$ ).*

**For more information about odds and payouts, check your racing program.**

## **Way #23**

**Keep track of your time at the track.**

## Way #92

Understand not all wagers are created equal.

### Betting Basics

Harness racing is one of a few sports where you don't necessarily need to pick the winner to win. In fact, there are a number of ways to bet—all with different levels of difficulty and different payouts.



# Common Bets Include

## Easy

### Win

Pick the winner of the race... that's it.

### Place

Your horse must finish first or second.

### Show

Your horse must finish first, second or third.

## Moderate

### Exactor

Pick the first two finishers in

### Daily Double

Pick the winner of two races in a row.

## Hard

### Triactor

Pick the first three finishers in order.

### Superfecta

Pick the first four finishers in order.

## Difficult

### Pick 3

Pick the winner of three races in a row.

### Pick 4

Pick the winner of four races in a row.



## Way #2

Understand if they're under 19, they're not allowed to bet.

# How to Wager

**Step 1** Choose the type of wager (*Win, Place etc.*)

**Step 2** Pick your horse or horses using their numbers, not names

**Step 3** Place your bet with a person or using a machine. You'll need:

- Racetrack name & race number
- Dollar amount
- Type of bet (*from step 1*)
- The horse's number

## Live & Simulcast Harness Racing

Live racing takes place right in front of you at the racetrack. Simulcast races happen at other racetracks around the world. They are broadcast live in real time, and you can wager the same way you would for a live race.

# Healthy Play Tips

Harness racing is an exciting sport, but like all forms of entertainment, your number one goal should be to have fun.

- Set a budget and stick to it
- Set a time limit and stick to it
- Keep track of your play
- Know how the games work, including the odds
- Avoid gambling when intoxicated
- Take frequent breaks
- Remember that wins are random events. Enjoy them if they happen, but don't expect more to follow
- Balance gambling with other forms of entertainment



For information on all of our games and odds visit the PlayWise section of our website at [alc.ca/playwise](http://alc.ca/playwise).

