



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LEXINGTON, Ky. – The American Graded Stakes Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association today presented its listing of U.S. Graded Stakes for 2008, the results of its annual grading session conducted November 27 in Lexington.

The Committee reviewed 718 unrestricted U.S. stakes races with a purse of at least \$75,000, and assigned graded status to 481 of them, seven more than were graded in 2007. A total of 10 graded races were upgraded, including three new Grade I races and seven new Grade II races; 18 new Grade III races were identified. Three races which carried Grade II status and three races which carried Grade III status in 2007 are no longer eligible for grading.

Three races were upgraded to Grade I status for 2008: the Maker's Mark Mile S. and First Lady S. at Keeneland and Just A Game S. at Belmont Park.

At the request of Breeders' Cup Limited chairman Bill Farish, Jr., who was a guest at the grading session, the Committee tabled Breeders' Cup's request to assign Grade I status to the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint, Dirt Mile and Juvenile Turf.

No races were downgraded from Grade I to Grade II for 2008.

Seven races were upgraded to Grade II status for 2008: the Rebel S. at Oaklawn Park, Fifth Third Elkhorn S. at Keeneland, Indiana Oaks at Hoosier Park, Lake George S. at Saratoga, Sands Point S. at Belmont Park, Providencia S. at Santa Anita Park and Old Hat S. at Gulfstream Park.

Three races were downgraded from Grade II to Grade III in 2008: the San Rafael S. at Santa Anita Park, Washington Park H. at Arlington Park and Nassau County Breeders' Cup S. at Belmont Park. The Belmont Breeders' Cup H. and Genuine Risk H. at Belmont Park and Saratoga Breeders' Cup H. at Saratoga were not eligible for grading in 2008.

Eighteen races were upgraded to Grade III status for 2008: the Woodford Reserve Bourbon S., Bryan Station S. and Appalachian S. at Keeneland; the Pilgrim S. and Miss Grillo S. at Belmont Park; the Southwest S. and Honeybee S. at Oaklawn Park; the Obeah H. and Robert G. Dick Memorial Breeders' Cup H. at Delaware Park; the Florida Oaks and Endeavour S. at Tampa Bay Downs; the La Habra S. and Tuzla H. at Santa Anita Park; the Commonwealth Turf S. at Churchill Downs, Colonel E.R. Bradley H. at Fair Grounds, Boyd Gaming Delta Princess S. at Delta Downs, Harold C. Ramser Sr. H. at Oak Tree at Santa Anita Park, and Virginia Oaks at Colonial Downs.

Five races were downgraded from Grade III to Ungraded status for 2008: the Arlington Classic S. at Arlington Park, Essex H. at Oaklawn Park, Aqueduct H. at Aqueduct, Bay Meadows Breeders' Cup H. at Bay Meadows and Bayou Breeders' Cup H. at Fair Grounds. The Valley Stream S. at Aqueduct and Astarita S. and Floral Park H. at Belmont Park were not eligible for grading in 2008.

Following is a summary breakdown of all grade levels and a complete list of all upgraded and downgraded U.S. races for the 2008 racing season as well as the complete list of 2008 graded stakes.

2008 Graded Stakes	Number	% Graded	%Eligible	Change from 2007
Grade I	110	22.9%		+3
Grade II	155	32.2%		-2
Grade III	216	44.9%		+6
All Graded	481		67.0%	
Ungraded	237		33.0%	
All Eligible Races	718			

TOBA American Graded Stakes Committee
Summary of Decisions Made at November 27, 2007 Grading Session

RACES UPGRADED FOR 2008:

Two-Year-Old Fillies

Boyd Gaming Delta Princess S.	(Delta Downs)	Ungraded to Grade III
Miss Grillo S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	Ungraded to Grade III

Three-Year-Old Fillies

Indiana Oaks	(Hoosier Park)	Grade III to Grade II
Lake George S. (T)	(Saratoga)	Grade III to Grade II
Sands Point S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	Grade III to Grade II
Providencia S. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	Grade III to Grade II
<u>Old Hat S.</u>	<u>(Gulfstream Park)</u>	<u>Grade III to Grade II</u>
Florida Oaks	(Tampa Bay Downs)	Ungraded to Grade III
Honeybee S.	(Oaklawn Park)	Ungraded to Grade III
Harold C. Ramser Sr. H. (T)	(Oak Tree at Santa Anita Park)	Ungraded to Grade III
Appalachian S. (T)	(Keeneland)	Ungraded to Grade III
Virginia Oaks (T)	(Colonial Downs)	Ungraded to Grade III
La Habra S. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	Ungraded to Grade III

Older Fillies and Mares

Just A Game S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	Grade II to Grade I
<u>First Lady S. (T)</u>	<u>(Keeneland)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade I</u>
Tuzla H. (T)	(Santa Anita Park)	Ungraded to Grade III
Endeavour S. (T)	(Tampa Bay Downs)	Ungraded to Grade III
Robert G. Dick Memorial BC H. (T)	(Delaware Park)	Ungraded to Grade III

Two-Year-Olds

Woodford Reserve Bourbon S. (T)	(Keeneland)	Ungraded to Grade III
Pilgrim S. (T)	(Belmont Park)	Ungraded to Grade III

Three-Year-Olds

<u>Rebel S.</u>	<u>(Oaklawn Park)</u>	<u>Grade III to Grade II</u>
Southwest S.	(Oaklawn Park)	Ungraded to Grade III
Commonwealth Turf S. (T)	(Churchill Downs)	Ungraded to Grade III
Bryan Station S. (T)	(Keeneland)	Ungraded to Grade III

Older Horses

<u>Maker's Mark Mile S. (T)</u>	<u>(Keeneland)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade I</u>
<u>Fifth Third Elkhorn S. (T)</u>	<u>(Keeneland)</u>	<u>Grade III to Grade II</u>
Colonel E.R. Bradley H. (T)	(Fair Grounds)	Ungraded to Grade III

RACES DOWNGRADED FOR 2008:**Two-Year-Old Fillies**

Astarita S.	(Belmont Park)	Not eligible
Valley Stream S.	(Aqueduct)	Not eligible

Three-Year-Old Fillies

Nassau County Breeders' Cup S.	(Belmont Park)	Grade II to Grade III
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Older Fillies and Mares

<u>Bayou Breeders' Cup H. (T)</u>	<u>(Fair Grounds)</u>	<u>Grade III to Ungraded</u>
Genuine Risk H.	(Belmont Park)	Not eligible
Floral Park H.	(Belmont Park)	Not eligible

Two-Year-Olds

None

Three-Year-Olds

<u>San Rafael S.</u>	<u>(Santa Anita Park)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
Arlington Classic S. (T)	(Arlington Park)	Grade III to Ungraded

Older Horses

<u>Washington Park H.</u>	<u>(Arlington Park)</u>	<u>Grade II to Grade III</u>
Essex H.	(Oaklawn Park)	Grade III to Ungraded
Aqueduct H.	(Aqueduct)	Grade III to Ungraded
<u>Bay Meadows Breeders' Cup H. (T)</u>	<u>(Bay Meadows)</u>	<u>Grade III to Ungraded</u>
Belmont Breeders' Cup H. (T)	(Belmont Park)	Not eligible
Saratoga Breeders' Cup H.	(Saratoga)	Not eligible