

## **Common Racing Terms and Positions Around a Race Track**

### **AROUND THE TRACK**

**Backstretch** - Straight portion of the far side of the track between the turns

**Clubhouse Turn** - Turn on a track closest to the clubhouse facility

**Home Stretch** - The straight length of the track heading toward the finish line

**Furlong** - One-eighth of a mile or 220 yards or 660 feet (approx. 200 meters)

### **EQUIPMENT**

**Sulky** - cart that carries the driver in a harness race

**Harness** - gear that used to attach the sulky to the horse and allows the driver to steer

**Blinkers** - device used to limit a horse's vision

**Colors** - a special colorful suit worn by drivers; these can be registered and then worn at every race

**Silks** - special colors worn by jockeys

### **BEFORE THE RACE**

**Race Card** - The race lineup for the entire day

**Past Performances** - A horse's record used as the basis for handicapping

**Handicap** - Making selections on the basis of past performances of the horse

**Scratch** - A horse that is taken out a race by a trainer or a veterinarian before the race begins

**Purse** - The money that is distributed after a race to the winning horses' owners

**Post Time** - Time designated for a race to start

**Post Position** - Position a horse leaves the starting gate at the start of a race

### **DURING THE RACE**

**Race Call** - Race description with the horse positions and behaviors and moves by the drivers

**Pacesetter** - The horse that is running in front

**Bearing In (Or Out)** - Deviating from a straight course

**Bolt** - Sudden veering from a straight course, usually to the outside rail

**Boxed In** - A horse that is surrounded by other horse and is thus unable to gain a clear passage

**Forced Wide** - A horse is forced to the outside of the track because of something another driver did

### **THE FINISH**

**Blanket Finish** - Horses that finish so close together they could be covered by a blanket

**Nose** - Smallest advantage a horse can win by winner

**Photo Finish** - A finish so close that a picture must be used to determine the order of winning

**Dead Heat** - Horses are declared as having crossed the finish line at the exact same time