

# Wanna Bet?



An Introduction to Wagering





## The Basic Stuff

If this is your first time betting on horse racing and you're feeling a little intimidated, remember one thing: even the experts had to make their first wager at some point.

But there's no need to be intimidated by all the numbers and the terminology. The fact is, you can make wagers, win some money, and have one heck of a good time if you just know some of the basics.

### What are the basic wagers?

*Win* – When you bet a horse to win, you win if your horse finishes first.

*Place* – When you bet a horse to place, you win if your horse finishes first or second.

*Show* – When you bet a horse to show, you win if your horse finishes first, second or third.

### How do I pick my horse?

Some people spend years developing a strategy to select winners. They look at things like bloodlines, past performances, and track conditions. And the more you wager, the more you'll get to know these strategies.

But if you want to keep it simple and easy, you may want to pick your favorite number or color, a name you like, or the horse you connect with. No matter how you make your selection, it can be just as much fun – win or lose.



### How do I place my bet?

Here is the cardinal rule of placing a wager at the betting window: never, ever feel scared or that you'll look foolish. Our staff understands what it's like to be a first-time bettor and they're more than happy to give you the assistance you need.

So when you get up to the window, simply follow these five easy steps:

1. State the name of the track.
2. Give the teller the number of the race you're betting on.
3. State the amount you wish to wager. (\$2 is the minimum)
4. Tell them the type of wager you'd like to make.
5. Give them the number of the horse as listed in your program.

Here's an example:

"Prairie Meadows, third race, two dollars, to win, on number five."

It's as simple as that. Now you know enough to feel perfectly comfortable placing a wager at the betting window. Now have some fun!





## The Exotic Stuff

If you want to spice things up a bit, you can add some exotic bets to your wagering. Exotic wagers basically add one or two more elements to the mix. Some add a second or third horse that you can select. Some add other races into your single bet. Here are some of the more popular wagers you can make.

### Single race exotics

*Exacta* – To win an exacta bet, you must choose the two horses finishing first and second in exact order.

*Quinella* – Choose two horses in a race. You win if either horse finishes first and the other horse finishes second.

*Trifecta* – You must choose the first three finishers in exact order.

### Multiple race exotics

*Daily Double* – To win the Daily Double, you must choose the winners of two races. We'll let you know which two races are part of the Daily Double. All you have to do is pick which horse you think will win each race and place your bet prior to the running of the first of these races.

*Pick Three* – Choose the winners of three consecutive races. Your wagers must be placed prior to the start of the first of the three races. Again, we'll let you know which races are part of the Pick Three.





## The Other Stuff

Here is some general information you can use as you get more comfortable with the wagering process, as well as some facts related to horse racing that you might find both interesting and helpful.

### Odds

The odds for any particular horse are not based upon that horse's abilities but upon how much money is bet on it. Win odds are posted on TV monitors and the infield tote board and are updated every 30-60 seconds. Note that these odds may fluctuate from the time you wager until the betting ends. When you win, your payoff is determined by the closing odds.

Following are the minimum payoffs for selected odds based on a \$2 wager:

Odds	Payoff	Odds	Payoff	Odds	Payoff
1-9	\$2.10	3-2	\$5.00	5-1	\$12.00
1-5	\$2.40	8-5	\$5.20	6-1	\$14.00
2-5	\$2.80	9-5	\$5.60	8-1	\$18.00
1-2	\$3.00	2-1	\$6.00	10-1	\$22.00
3-5	\$3.20	5-2	\$7.00	12-1	\$26.00
4-5	\$3.60	3-1	\$8.00	15-1	\$32.00
1-1	\$4.00	7-2	\$9.00	20-1	\$42.00
6-5	\$4.40	4-1	\$10.00	30-1	\$62.00



## The Track

Prairie Meadows' track is one mile in length. That mile is broken down into what are called furlongs. One furlong is equal to one-eighth of a mile. Popular race distances at Prairie Meadows are six furlongs and one mile.

## The Horses

*Filly* – A filly is a female horse that is four years of age and younger.

*Mare* – A mare is a female horse five years of age and older.

*Colt* – A colt is a male horse four years of age and younger.

*Horse* – A male five years of age and older.

*Gelding* – A male horse of any age that has been neutered.

*Thoroughbreds* – A Thoroughbred is a breed of horse, bred chiefly for racing, and originating from a cross between Arabian stallions and English mares. Known for their speed and endurance, Thoroughbreds have also proven to be quite adept at other sports such as hunting, jumping and polo.

*American Quarter Horses* – A Quarter Horse is a breed of horse known for its speed over short distances. The American Quarter Horse breed evolved during the early 1600s, as Arab, Turk and Barb breeds were brought to America and crossed with horses from England and Ireland. The result was a compact, muscled horse that was ideal for short-distance racing.



## The Races

Though many races appear to be much the same as others, each race has “conditions” that specify which horses may enter. Conditions include the horse’s age, sex and other classes of information about the horse.

Here are a few examples of some of the more popular and important types of races:

*Maiden Race* – A race for horses that have not yet won their first race.

*Claiming Race* – Race in which horses are entered subject to being purchased (claimed).

*Allowance Race* – Allowance races are highly competitive contests where the horses entered cannot be purchased. The purses in allowance races are usually higher than purses in claiming races, but are not usually as high as stakes and handicap races.

*Stakes and Handicap Races* – A stakes race is for horses showing the most ability, for which the horse’s owner must pay a fee. The fees can be for nominating, maintaining eligibility, entering and starting, to which the track may add more money to make up the total purse. In a handicap race, weights are added to the horse prior to the race in order to make all horses more evenly matched.

*Graded Stakes Races* – Selected stakes race, which is classified according to importance, with Grade I being the highest level of competition. Popular races that are considered Grade I include the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and some of the races that make up the Breeders’ Cup World Championships. (Prairie Meadows’ most highly rated stakes race is the Prairie Meadows Cornhusker Handicap, which is a Grade II race.)



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