

O'Brien Awards – Eligibility Clause

O'Brien Awards Eligibility Clause [*Criteria Updated](#)

An O'Brien Award will not be presented to any individual or entity, including trainers, drivers, owners and breeders, who has served or is currently serving a penalty for a continued period of 180 days or more during the calendar year. If the penalty continues through any part of the following calendar year, said individual is also ineligible for an O'Brien Award in the second year of the penalty.

Any trainer who receives a Class I, II, III or TCO2 positive during the calendar year, or at any time prior to the presentation of the O'Brien Awards, is not eligible for the O'Brien Award for Trainer of the Year, the O'Brien Award of Horsemanship or the Keith Waples Driver of the Year. Any trainer who receives two or more Class IV or Class V positives during the calendar year, or at any time prior to the presentation of the O'Brien Awards, is not eligible for Trainer of the Year, the O'Brien Award of Horsemanship or the Keith Waples Driver of the Year.

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, Standardbred Canada reserves the right to determine the eligibility of any horse, individual or entity at its sole discretion.

Horse Eligibility

For horses to be eligible for consideration for an O'Brien Award, the horse must have had a minimum of three (3) starts in Canada between January 1st and November 30th, in addition to any Breeders Crown starts, when the Breeders Crown is hosted in Canada. The type of race (stakes, overnight) is irrelevant and schooling and qualifying races do not represent a start.

Armstrong Breeder of the Year Award

- Breeder must either be a resident of Canada or have a Canadian based breeding operation AND must fit one of the following criteria: A minimum of 50 per cent of their starters, in the current year, must either be Canadian-foaled or Canadian-sired **OR** a minimum of 5 starters, in the current year, are Canadian-foaled or Canadian-sired.
- Earnings/wins of offspring for whom the member is the breeder of record.
- Stakes wins by offspring in a given year for whom the member is the breeder of record. • Minimum 50 Canadian start requirement.

O'Brien Award of Horsemanship

The O'Brien Award of Horsemanship recognizes **a trainer** who exemplifies the high standard of horsemanship that was demonstrated by Joe O'Brien during his career, including the outstanding care and training of Standardbreds, respect for the horse, a commitment to equine welfare and success in the development and training of young horses.

Canadian-based horse people will be evaluated on criteria which focuses on the development and performance of young horses within their care, for the given year. While the award will be open to both large and small operations, the focus of this award is on the hands-on horseperson who is able to achieve success within their racing jurisdiction, and possibly beyond.

Criteria for evaluation includes integrity, professionalism, and a commitment to putting the welfare of horses first. Other measures for evaluation include performance ratings, stakes wins as a percentage of overall starts, and race lines that indicate signs of development and maturity.

Trainer of the Year

Trainers must have a minimum of 30 percent of their total starts (up to and including Nov. 30) in Canada.

Future Star *Criteria Updated

- Must have made the majority of his/her starts in Canada in the year of consideration (over 50 per cent).
- Does not have to be a Canadian citizen.
- Cannot win this award more than once.
- Cannot be over the age of 30 as of Dec. 31.
- Must be within the first five full-time years of the person's career as either a trainer or driver.
- The full-time requirement for trainers is a minimum of 75 starts (per calendar year).
(For 2020, it was reduced to 50.)
- The full-time requirement for drivers is a minimum of 150 starts (per calendar year).
(For 2020, it was reduced to 100.)
- The following candidates will be excluded from consideration for the Future Star Award:
 - Any candidate who has any one or a number of suspensions totaling 60 days or more in any of the five years of eligibility or carrying over into the year of presentation.
 - Any trainer who has received a positive test for a Class I, II, III drug or a TCO2 positive in any of the five years of eligibility, or any trainer who receives two or more Class IV or Class V positives during the calendar year, or at any time prior to the presentation of the O'Brien Awards, is not eligible for the Future Star Award.