
April 25, 2025

Woodbine Racing Community,

As we prepare to open the 2025 Thoroughbred season, I want to acknowledge the joint statement issued today by Woodbine and the AGCO regarding the equine injuries that occurred late last year.

What happened last fall was tragic. Everyone at Woodbine shares in the compassion and concern felt throughout our racing community and we remain focused on doing everything we can to maintain the safest possible track conditions in North America.

Since the end of last season, we have made significant investments to strengthen the safety and consistency of our Tapeta surface. These include:

- Comprehensive training for our Racing Surfaces team from Tapeta Footings and other industry experts;
- The recruitment of a full-time track maintenance specialist with nearly 30 years of international experience;
- The acquisition of advanced maintenance equipment, including cultivators, conditioners, and integrated testing tools;
- The acquisition of an Integrated Racetrack Surface Tester to monitor moisture, temperature, and cushion depth in real time;
- Track renovations to improve surface consistency and drainage;
- Clearer maintenance protocols and team accountabilities to ensure consistency.

Additionally, as part of the agreement with the AGCO, we will be implementing a few new oversight measures, including:

- Retaining two internationally recognized track safety experts to conduct quarterly Tapeta surface assessments for two years;
- Establishing a Track Surfaces Committee with representation from the HBPA, JBAC, and Woodbine to monitor safety and make recommendations throughout the season;
- Providing Board-level oversight through the Governance and Compliance Committee to support and review surface management practices.

Tapeta remains one of the safest racing surfaces in the industry, and Woodbine Racetrack has historically maintained one of the strongest safety records in North America. We are confident in the track and ready to begin the season.

I want to thank you — our horse people — for your ongoing feedback and engagement. Your input continues to play an important role in helping us improve and prepare for a safe and successful season ahead.

Sincerely,

Michael Copeland
CEO, Woodbine Entertainment