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Workers' Comp rates to remain unchanged in 2027; New Purse Distribution Percentages to be introduced

Arcadia, Calif. - Post Time Self Insurance Group (PTSIG) has advised that there will be no increase in the horse industry's workers' compensation program covering backstretch workers and jockeys at the start of 2027. The workers' compensation program is operated by PTSIG and most of the program funding is derived from per-stall charges to trainers and per-start fees to owners.

The owners' per-start fee will remain $174 for calendar year 2027. The fee will continue to be automatically deducted from the owner's paymaster account when a horse competes in a race in California. Owners have the right to opt out of the Post Time Self Insurance program, provided they secure workers' compensation coverage to comply with the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) requirement.

The base rate for the per-stall fee will remain $5.50 per day for calendar year 2027. The table below provides the history.

Guaranteed participation purse money has been adjusted upward effective December 26, 2026, with newly established minimums for horses finishing third through seventh. Horses finishing eighth or worse will continue to receive $500. Guaranteed participation purse money is designed to help owners cover core costs such as workers' compensation insurance and jockey mount fee. See the attached 2027 Participation Purse Schedule for complete information.

Recent History (2021-2027) Southern California Rates

Year	Per Start	Rate Per-Stall	Guaranteed Participation Purse
2027	$174	$5.50	See attached (2027 Participation Purse Schedule)
2026	$174	$5.50	$500
2025	$158	$5.00	$500
2024	$158	$5.00	$500
2023	$146	$4.60	$500
2022	$162	$5.10	$500
2021	$162	$5.10	$500

2026-27 Participation Purse Schedule

Horses finishing 3rd through 7th receive their percentage-based purse or the applicable minimum, whichever is higher. Horses finishing 8th and worse receive $500.

Place	Proposed share	Minimum / participation
1st	58%	Percentage
2nd	20%	Percentage
3rd	10%	$1,200 minimum
4th	5%	$1,100 minimum
5th	3%	$1,000 minimum
6th	2.5%	$900 minimum
7th	1.5%	$800 minimum
8th+	-	$500 participation

How the Participation Top-Up Works

For horses finishing 3rd through 7th:
At or above the minimum. The horse receives its full percentage-based purse. No additional payment is required.

Below the minimum. An additional payment brings the horse's total earnings up to the minimum.

By comparison, NYRA tracks pay 55% to the winner.

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