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SUFFOLK DOWNS INCREASES PURSES FOR 2008 MEET, EXPANDS STAKES PROGRAM

EAST BOSTON, MA – Suffolk Downs will open its 2008 racing season with a five percent increase in purses and an expanded stakes program, the track announced today. Purses for all categories of races have been increased for the 103-day meet, which begins Saturday, May 3. It is the second straight year that purses have been increased at the historic East Boston oval.

The expanded stakes program includes the \$500,000 Massachusetts Handicap, the \$100,000 James B. Moseley Sprint Handicap, and seven \$50,000 open stakes, five of which have been added to the program since last year. Purses for the two open stakes that were run in 2007 were \$45,000.

“The purse increase and the new stakes reflect ownership’s commitment to providing the best possible local racing for our fans and horsemen,” said Suffolk Downs Chief Operating Officer Chip Tuttle.

The first stakes race of the year will be the Rudy Baez Stakes, a six-furlong sprint for three-year-olds and up to be contested on Memorial Day, May 26. The stakes schedule culminates on Saturday, September 20 with the \$500,000 MassCap, which is now a qualifying race in the Breeders’ Cup Challenge “Win and You’re In Classic Division,” as announced in February. The MassCap undercard features the \$100,000 James B. Moseley Sprint Handicap, the \$50,000 Drumtop Stakes and the inaugural \$50,000 Robert M. O’Malley Memorial Stakes, named in honor of the track’s longtime executive who died in 2007.

Four \$50,000 stakes restricted to horses bred in the state of Massachusetts are also scheduled, beginning with the Rise Jim Stakes on June 14.

Purses for all maiden, claiming and allowance races were raised \$300, bringing the purses for \$5,000 maiden claiming races and conditional \$4,000 and \$5,000 claimers up to \$7,300. Maiden special weight races and top-level claiming races will carry purses of \$17,300. Allowance purses will range from \$11,800 at the starter level to \$18,400 for first level allowances and \$23,400 for top money allowances.

Under new ownership in 2007, total purses paid increased 12 percent from the previous year. Additionally, average daily attendance for the live racing meet was up 22 percent, while average daily handle on track for the live meet rose 14 percent.

The entire 2008 stakes schedule follows on the next page:

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2008 Suffolk Downs Stakes Schedule

\$50,000 Stakes

May 26	Rudy Baez		3 & Up	6 furlongs
June 14	Rise Jim	(MA)	3 & Up	6 furlongs
June 21	Isadorable Stakes	(MA)	F & M 3 & Up	6 furlongs
July 4	My Fair Lady		F & M 3 & Up	1 mile & 1/16 (T)
July 5	Last Dance	(MA)	3 & Up	1 mile & 70 yards
July 26	First Episode	(MA)	F & M 3 & Up	1 mile & 70 yards
August 2	Old Ironsides Stakes		3 & Up	1 mile & 1/16 (T)
August 16	Mom's Command		F & M 3 & Up	5 furlongs (T)
August 30	Waquoit		3 & Up	1 & 1/16 miles

Saturday, September 20 – MassCap Day

\$500,000	Massachusetts Handicap		3 & Up	1 & 1/8 miles
	Breeders' Cup Challenge "Win and You're In Classic Division"			
\$100,000	James B. Moseley Sprint Handicap		3 & Up	6 furlongs
\$50,000	Drumtop		F & M 3 & Up	6 furlongs
\$50,000	Robert M. O'Malley Memorial		3 & Up	5 furlongs (T)

(T) Turf

(MA) Restricted to Massachusetts-breds

About Suffolk Downs:

Founded in 1935, Suffolk Downs is New England's preeminent thoroughbred racing venue. Home of the Massachusetts Handicap, it has hosted Hall of Fame horses Seabiscuit, Whirlaway and Cigar, among others, and has been the site of performances by world-renowned entertainers, including the Beatles, Aerosmith and Elvis Costello. The winner of the 2008 MassCap on September 20 will automatically qualify for the Breeders' Cup Classic held October 25. For additional information about Suffolk Downs, call (617) 567-3900 or visit www.suffolkdowns.com.