

10 Tips for a Great Day at the Races

PLAYING
TO WIN
LEVEL 201



1. VISIT [WWW.CHURCHILLDOWNS.COM](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com)

Get all the information you need about the upcoming day from www.ChurchillDowns.com. Available on the site are picks from the pros; stories on the horses running that day, and any information you will need to enjoy your day at Churchill Downs.

2. GET A PROGRAM

Check the program for the listing of the horses in all the races for the day. The program has information on the races the horses have run in the past, which can be an excellent indication of what the horses will do in the current race. For more information on how to read the past performances, check the front of the program, which includes an explanation of terms and statistics. The program is also a great place to get expert advice from professional handicappers.

3. BE SURE TO VISIT THE PADDOCK

This is the place where everything comes together before the race. The horses, jockeys, trainers and owners all meet in the paddock to discuss the upcoming race (the horses mostly listen). The paddock is a great place to see which horses are ready to run. Things to look for in a winning horse are a fluid stride, cool demeanor, and a shining coat.

4. CHECK THE TOTEBOARD

The toteboard is the place to find the odds of the horses in the race, the minutes left until the next race, and the payoffs for the winning horses. The odds represent how much money has been bet on a particular horse. The odds on the tote board are the current odds, while the odds in the program are merely a starting point. A horse with odds of 3-2 is very heavily bet, and will pay around \$5 for a Win bet of \$2. On the other hand, a horse with odds of 50-1 is very lightly bet and will pay around \$102 for a Win bet of \$2.

5. GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN

The three simplest bet types are Win, Place, and Show. A Win bet is betting that a horse will finish first. A Place bet is betting that a horse will finish first or second. A Show bet is betting that a horse will finish first, second or third. Start with Show bets and work your way up to Place and Win bets as you become more confident with your handicapping skills. Your greatest chance of cashing a ticket lies in the Show bet.

6. GO EXOTIC

Once you feel confident betting Win, Place, and Show you can move up to exotic wagers. The simplest exotic wager is the Exacta. An Exacta is picking the first and second finishers in exact order. So, if you thought the 4 horse would finish first, and the 7 horse would finish second, you would bet an Exacta with the 4

over the 7. This bet would only cost you \$2. You can reduce your risk by boxing your Exacta and thus allowing your two horses to be interchangeable. A \$1 two horse Exacta box will cost you \$2. Adding one more horse to the Exacta box would bring the cost to \$6.

7. GET YOUR BET IN

It's important to allow yourself plenty of time before the race goes off to make your bet. While it can be intimidating at first to go to the window to place a bet, it's really quite simple once you know what you're doing. Decide what you are going to bet before you go to the window. The last thing you want is to be at the window trying to figure out which horse to bet while there are people behind you in line. Once you get there, state the name of the track you are betting on, the race number, the amount of your wager, the type of your wager, and finally the number of your horse. For example – "I'd like to bet on Churchill Downs, the fourth race – five dollars to Win on the 6 horse."

8. MANAGE YOUR MONEY

The key to a fun day at the track is making your money last. If you have \$100 in your pocket, betting \$100 in the first race may not be the best idea. Instead, have a rough idea of how much you'd like to wager on each race and try to stick to it.

9. PICK YOUR SPOTS

The true sign of a good handicapper is betting only the races in which you think you have a good idea of the outcome. By betting only the races in which you feel confident, you greatly increase your chances of leaving the track a winner. If you don't have a feeling one way or the other, try sitting a race out. However, the fastest way to go home unhappy with yourself is to pass on a race in which you think you know the winner. Nothing feels worse than not betting on a horse you knew would win.

10. BE POLITE

There are a few sure-fire ways to make everyone around you have a bad day. Never block someone else's view. Don't hold up a line at the windows. And if a horse runs particularly awful, it's best not to talk about it. You never know who's around who may have bet on the horse, or may even own it. Oh, and always congratulate your friends on a big win, but don't let them forget that they get to buy next round!



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http://www.twinspiresclub.com/playing_to_win