

# 10 Tips for a Great Day at the Races

PLAYING TO WIN LEVEL 101



## 1. VISIT [WWW.CHURCHILLDOWNS.COM](http://WWW.CHURCHILLDOWNS.COM)

Chock full of information for each day's race program, including picks from the pros; and stories on the horses running that day and any information you will need to know to enjoy your day at the races.

## 2. BUY A PROGRAM

You can't tell the players without a program. The program will tell you the history of every horse running that day, and also explains how to understand the information.

## 3. CHECK OUT THE PADDOCK

About 20 minutes before each race, the horses, jockeys and trainers gather in the paddock. This is your best chance to see the horses up close and personal before they run.

## 4. KEEP TABS ON THE TOTEBOARD

The illuminated tote board in the infield keeps track of where the betting money is going. The horse with the most money bet is the favorite, but keep in mind that favorites win only about a third of the time. The board also lets you know how many minutes are left before the race starts.

## 5. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FINISH FIRST TO WIN

A lot of people have a great day at the track betting to Show. If your horse finishes first, second or third, you cash in, although the payoffs are not as big as if you bet on the horse to Win.

## 6. GETTING EXOTIC, SIMPLY

OK, forget No. 5. An Exacta is picking the first and second finishers of a race in exact order. If you want to hedge a little, bet an Exacta box, which pays if the horses you bet finish first or second in any order. A \$1 two-horse Exacta box costs \$2.

## 7. GET YOUR BET IN

The track has hundreds of mutuel windows, where clerks accept bets. You need to tell them the name of the track you are betting on, the number of the race, the amount of your wager, the type of wager and finally, the number of your horses, to Win: Churchill Downs, race 4, \$2 to Show on the No. 6 horse.

## 8. MANAGE YOUR MONEY

You don't have to bet every race. Look over the program, decide how much money you plan to wager, and then bet on the horses you really like. Betting all your money on the first race can lead to a real short stay at the track.

## 9. EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY

What's a great day at the races without a great day of food and drink? Tracks are known for a variety of tasty meals, ranging from inexpensive to world class. See your program for food and beverage locations.

## 10. RACETRACK ETIQUETTE

Cheering is encouraged, especially when your horse turns for home with the lead. If you don't win, remember – there's always another race.



TWIN SPIRES CLUB

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