

Pimlico's 2010 spring schedule holds steady at 20 race days

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Pimlico will host 20 live racing days this spring.

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The Pimlico Special has been axed for the second straight year because it doesn't have the payout potential horse owners are seeking.

[Maryland Jockey Club](#) President Tom Chuckas said in a statement "a \$250,000 purse is just not good enough" for the Grade I Pimlico Special.

A purse shortage is canceling both the Pimlico Special and Allaire duPont Distaff. It marks the fourth time in the last nine years the Pimlico Special has been canceled for this reason.

The news came Tuesday when the Maryland Jockey Club unveiled its 2010 spring horse racing schedule at the historic track.

Pimlico's schedule remains virtually unchanged from last year's line up of races at Pimlico. The 20-day spring schedule at Pimlico will be highlighted by the 135th running of the \$1 million Preakness Stakes set for May 15.

The six-week spring meet begins April 17 and runs through May 22.

Preakness weekend will feature 15 races with a total purse of more than \$2.2 million. Average wagering at [Pimlico Race Course](#)'s 2009 spring meet grew nearly 9 percent compared with last year. But total bets fell 2.5 percent as a result of fewer live racing days.

The average total daily wager for Pimlico's 41-day spring schedule last year was \$6.85 million. That's up from \$6.29 million in 2008. That schedule included 21 days that did not feature live racing at the course, only simulcast racing.

Last year, the Jockey Club trimmed Pimlico's spring racing schedule by 11 days to maintain an average \$160,000 purse structure each day.