Background amendment to Rule 322.

The amendment is a safety amendment, both for drivers involved in accidents and their fellow drivers. The literature on concussions and other head trauma tells us that not all symptoms will develop in the minutes following an injury. This is why it is important for the health and safety of the driver to immediately remove them from driving and have them medically cleared by a physician/nurse practitioner before they can resume their driving privileges.

Old Rule 322

1. The judges may remove a driver at any time if, in their opinion, his or her driving would not be in the best interest of harness racing.

 (2) A driver cannot decline to be substituted by the Judges. Any driver who refuses shall be suspended and may be subject to a monetary penalty.

**The New rule as amended reads:**

New Rule 322

1. The judges may remove a driver at any time if, in their opinion, his or her driving would not be in the best interest of harness racing. The judges shall remove a driver who may have suffered a concussion or other head trauma. The driver shall provide documentation of medical clearance to the Commission before being allowed to drive in a qualifying or pari-mutuel race

(2) A driver cannot decline to be substituted by the Judges. Any driver who refuses shall be suspended and may be subject to a monetary penalty.