

Aqueduct 2019 – Track Trends

Tuesday, December 31

Sloppy (sealed)

Cloudy

45

Wind 6 to 10 MPH NE

The card was dominated by logical horses. While many runners stayed off the inside, there is no reason to believe the rail was bad considering the 5th and 6th races in particular.

Monday, December 30

Sloppy (sealed)

Rainy

43

Wind 24 to 22 MPH W/SW

While much of the running was done at least a few paths of the rail, the 5th winner came up the inside, so the track was likely fair. Speed and closers also did relatively well.

Sunday, December 29

Fast

Cloudy

44

Wind 7 MPH West

Much of the best running, or really most of the running in general, was done off the rail, but given the 2nd race, it's hard to say there was anything wrong with the inside.

Saturday, December 28

Fast

Clear

48

Wind 8 to 5 MPH SE

The races were dominated by horses making outside moves, but there is no clear evidence the rail was bad, though for the most part riders stayed at least a path or two off the inside. Worth monitoring going forward but hard to say there was any bias.

Sunday, December 22

Fast

Clear

44

Wind 10 MPH NE

The track appeared to play fairly throughout the day, though speed did reasonably well, though it may have been circumstantial.

Saturday, December 21

Fast

Cloudy

33

Wind 3 MPH SW

The track appeared to play fairly.

Friday, December 20

Fast

Clear

31

Wind 13 to 11 MPH SE

Given the variety of results, the track seemed to play fairly.

Sunday, December 15

Muddy (sealed)

Cloudy

44

Wind 21 to 19 MPH East

The track played fairly despite the muddy conditions.

Saturday, December 14

Sloppy (sealed)

Showers and Fog

53

Wind 6 to 17 MPH NW to NE

Speed appeared to be a distinct advantage, especially through the first six races, with seemingly no effective closing. The last few races played out a bit more fairly, though it may have been situational.

Friday, December 13

Good (1-7) - Muddy (sealed) (8)

Cloudy

43

Wind 10 MPH NW

The rain held off until very late in the card, and only the final race was really affected by moisture. The track played very fairly throughout the day with a mixture of speed and closers doing well.

Thursday, December 12

Good

Clear

29

Wind 8 to 4 MPH South to NW

The Main Track (Turf racing is officially over until the Spring of 2020) appeared to play fairly with no path bias. Speed did well but didn't appear to be a significant advantage, if one at all.

Sunday, December 8

Fast / Good

Clear

40

Wind 8 to 14 MPH N

The Main Track may have been tilted towards speed, as has been the case for much of the meet, but we did see some closers be effective. However, the effective closers pretty much were wide enough to stay out of the kick back. With one race on each course, the final turf races until April 2020, it's difficult to determine if there was any bias.

Saturday, December 7

Fast / Yielding

Clear

37

Wind 12 MPH SE

The times on the Main Track were very much on the slow side. Most of the running was done off the rail but it's not clear it was a dead rail, as the second horse in the 3rd race rallied inside late. Arguably speed was an advantage, but once again it may be because it is very difficult to run through the kickback, as the best closers were out in the clear for the most part (see the 9th race runner up). With one race on each turf course, it's hard to determine any bias.

Friday, December 6

Fast / Yielding (9th Only)

Cloudy

45

Wind 15 to 13 MPH NE

The Main Track appeared to play fairly, though most running was done at least a little (two path) off the rail. The times were back to being much slower than "normal." The one race on the Turf (Inner) appeared to play fairly and the time suggests it is on the good side of yielding.

Thursday, December 5

Good / OFF

Clear

41

Wind 21 to 16 MPH SE

The track seemed relatively fair, though riders mostly stayed off the inside, and the best running was done at least a few paths off the rail. However, the 3rd race winner came up the rail, so it's hard to say it was dead. The times were on the quicker side, for this meet at least, and we were off the turf.

Sunday, December 1

Fast (1-2) Good (sealed) 3-4 / OFF

Showers

35

Wind 10 to 12 MPH SW

With mostly logical results, and the weather changing the track conditions, it's hard to suggest any patterns. the surface appeared to play fairly, for what that's worth. Racing was cancelled after four races.

Saturday, November 30

Fast / Good

Clear

39

Wind 8 to 5 MPH SE

While forward horses continue to do well on the Main Track, it is likely situational, and overall it may have played fairly. Worth paying attention going forward. Inside runners did well on the Inner Turf course, but likely it was more trip related, as both courses seemed fair.

Friday, November 29

Fast / Good

Clear

40

Wind 13 to 10 MPH SE

The Main Track races (there were four) were mostly dominated by horses that were forwardly placed, but it could have been situational. Similarly, the races on both turf courses were dominated by horses making outside moves, but that too could have been situational.

Wednesday, November 27

11/27 Track Trends

Fast / Yielding

Cloudy

55

Wind 7 to 13 MPH N/NE

While much of the running on the Main Track was done off the rail, there did not appear to be anything wrong with the inside, and overall the dirt played fairly. There was one race on each turf course, and even after Sunday's extensive rain, the courses were in good shape. The rails were out 27 feet on the Inner and 36 on the Outer for the first time, so the racing was done on fresh ground. The races played out fairly.

Sunday, November 24

Sloppy (sealed) / OFF

44

Wind 12 to 14 MPH SE

Most runners stayed at least a path or two off the rail. Speed did fine, but closers did well in some cases, as the track seemed to play fairly despite the sloppy conditions.

Saturday, November 23

Fast / Good

Clear

44

Wind 4 to 8 MPH E/NE

Once again, speed may have been a slight advantage on the Main Track, with the best running done at least a little off the rail. It wasn't impossible to make up ground, but being forward seemed to help. The turf courses played fairly, but the inside on the Inner Turf was a good place to be, if not an advantage.

Friday, November 22

Fast (2) Good (3, 5-8)/ Good (Off Race 6)

Cloudy (some showers early)

51

Wind 10 to 13 NE to SE

Early showers changed the Main Track from Fast to Good and caused the 6th to be taken off the Turf. The dirt races were dominated at least towards the front end, though it may have been mostly situational. There was one Turf race on each course with no noticeable bias.

Thursday, November 21

Fast / Good

Clear

50

Wind 6 to 4 MPH SE to NE

The Main Track played fairly as far as speed and closers, but the inside/rail seems off, and the best running was done outside for the most part. Worth following going forward. We were back on the Turf (the 1st race was taken off) and the courses played fairly. The rails were moved out to 18 feet on the Inner and 24 feet on the Outer for the first time today.

Wednesday, November 20

Good (1-4) Fast (5-9) / OFF

Cloudy

44

Wind 11 MPH SE

Most of the best running was done towards the front end, but it may have been situational, as closers didn't appear to under perform, at least as much as they had been for the past week or more of racing. Most riders stayed off the inside, though it's not clear the rail was bad.

Sunday, November 17

Fast / Firm

Clear

44

Wind 14 MPH SW

The Main Track continues to play slowly with forwardly placed horses and/or horses making clear outside runs dominating the races. The two turf courses played fairly.

Saturday, November 16

Fast / Firm

Clear

40

Wind 14 to 9 MPH SW

The Main Track continues to play slowly with forwardly placed horses dominating for the most part. There were some effective closers, so perhaps there is an argument that the track was more fair, but overall horses in the clear and/or forwardly placed performed best. The turf courses continue to play fairly. Being inside helped, that was likely more about saving ground than the courses themselves.

Friday, November 15

Fast / Firm

Clear

49

Wind 9 to 7 MPH NE

While speed, and runners in the clear, continue to dominate the Main Track races, the track sped up a bit. While still slow, it was clearly faster than the previous day. The turf courses continue to play fairly.

Thursday, November 14

Fast / Firm

Cloudy

45

Wind 7 to 9 MPH NE

The Main Track continues to produce slow times, slower in fact than the past weekend, and generally speed held up, or runners did well when kept primarily out in the clear. The rails went up on the turf courses, 12 feet on the Outer and 9 on the Inner, which mitigated the rail bias from the prior week and created seemingly fair conditions.

Monday, November 11

Fast / Firm

Clear

59

Wind 3 to 5 MPH NE/NW

Much like the prior day, speed held up in the dirt races, with little significant ground made by any closers. The turf courses remained favorable to horses that spent at least a significant portion of the race on the inside. Any aberrations, like the 7th race, were more related to race dynamics than a track profile. The turf races from this entire week are worth watching again to note horses both positively and negatively affected by the rail bias.

Sunday, November 10

Fast / Firm

Cloudy

51

Wind 9 to 6 MPH NE

The Main Track played very slowly, and making up considerable ground was not easy. This may have been more about kickback, as the horses that made up ground did it outside and stayed clear during the race. As for the turf courses, the rail was again a huge advantage on both courses, and it was necessary to save ground for at least some of the race to be successful.

Saturday, November 9

Fast / Firm

Clear

40

Wind 5 to 7 MPH NE

The four Main Track races played out fairly. Both turf courses strongly favored horses that spent at least a significant portion of the race inside. Outside closing moves, for the most part, were ineffective.

Friday, November 8

Fast / Firm

Cloudy

41

Wind 17 to 14 MPH SE

The Main Track appeared to play fairly. The turf courses (two on the Outer and one route on the Inner) appeared to play fairly. Worth monitoring going forward, as 11/8 was surrounded by days where the inside was a big advantage on bothturf courses.

Thursday, November 7

Fast / Firm

Cloudy

57

Wind 10 to 7 MPH NE

The rail was good on the Main Track, while not necessarily a significant advantage, while overall the races played out fairly. The inside was a distinct advantage on both turf courses, with successful runners, for the most part, having spent at least a significant portion of the race inside.

Sunday, November 3

Fast / Good

Clear

53

Wind 10 to 8 MPH SE

The Main Track appeared to play fairly. The Turf courses once again, based on final times, while in great shape seem closer to yielding than the list condition "good." Both played fairly.

Saturday, November 2

Fast / Good

Clear

52

Wind 4 MPH NW

The Main Track played fairly. The turf courses were labelled "Good" but the times make them seem Yielding. The inner played fairly, but the two sprints run on the Outer Course were dominated by closers. Hard to know, however, if that was just circumstantial.

Friday, November 1

Good 1-6 - Fast 7-10 / OFF

Clear

54

Wind 17 to 12 MPH E/SE

The track dried quickly after a week of showers and overnight rain. While there were clear hints that the rail was strong at different points during the day, there are too many contradictory incidents to make that determination, particularly the last two races. The notion that the track changed before the 9th race, as that time seemed slower than possibly one would expect, are tough to back up given the relatively quick time for the 10th race, a race dominated by outside closers, much like the 9th. I call the track even and fair.

Saturday, April 20

Sloppy (Sealed) / Yielding (6th - Outer)

Cloudy

62

Wind 16 MPH N/NW

Overnight rains that ended shortly before the 1st race left the track sloppy, and sealed, and off the turf for all but the 6th race, the Stake. The track played fairly, with most riders staying well off the rail, though there is no way to judge that it was much deeper inside. Speed was good, but not clearly an advantage, especially given there were mostly

logical results throughout the day. The one turf race was won wire to wire but there's no way to judge the track from that one slow paced race with a reasonably logical result.

Friday, April 19

Fast / Firm

Cloudy

64

Wind 11 to 13 MPH NW/N

The Main Track played fairly. There was one Outer Turf race, a sprint, and the rail arguably continues to be an advantage. There were three routes on the Inner Turf and they appeared to play fairly overall.

Thursday, April 18

Fast / Firm

Cloudy

60

Wind 13 to 11 MPH NW

The Main Track appeared to play fairly as did the Inner Turf. The rail was still likely an advantage on the Outer Turf though possibly not as strong as 4/17.

Wednesday, April 17

Fast / Good

Clear

58

Wind 2 to 4 MPH SW to NW

There were five dirt races, and all of them were won by outside stalkers, in three of the cases over much shorter priced horses that were inside speed. While the track was likely fair, it's worth at least contemplating. As for the turf, the one Inner Turf race was a bit of a meltdown but the course was likely fair, while the Outer Turf was a different story. There were three sprints run on the Outer Turf, and all were dominated by horses that rode the rail for most, or all, of the race. It is not coincidental that this was the first day the rails were down on this course.

Sunday, April 14

Fast / Good

Foggy

63

Wind 7 to 5 MPH NW

The four main track races appeared to play fairly. There were two turf sprints on the Outer and speed did well in both (2nd at a price and 1-2 at prices in the Stake) while the three routes on the Inner Turf were dominated by closers. Not saying the course was biased, as it may well have been situational, but worth noting.

Saturday, April 13

Sloppy (sealed) 1-2; Muddy (sealed) 4 then Muddy (Harrowed) 5-9 / Yielding (3rd Only - Outer Course)

Cloudy early/Cleared later

70

Wind 6 to 8 MPH NE/N

Obviously conditions changed through the day after overnight rains. The sloppy/sealed early races played fairly with logical results with runners staying off the rail. Afterwards speed did well, but it was likely situational, and it became clear as the track was harrowed, and the day went on, that the rail was fine, if not an advantage (which it well may have been with a longshot winner in the 7th riding the inside as well as a logical winner of the finale). The one turf race was a sprint on the Outer, which played out logically.

Friday, April 12

Fast / Firm

Showers

58

Wind 6 to 12 MPH NW to North late

Much like 4/11, all courses played fairly...four main track races, three sprints on the Outer Turf, and two routes on the Inner Turf.

Thursday, April 11

Fast / Firm

Cloudy

49

Wind 2 to 7 MPH North

The five main track races played out fairly. There were four turf races, three sprints on the Outer course, and they all appeared to play fairly.

Wednesday, April 10

Fast / Firm

Clear

58

Wind 11 MPH SE

Five races on the main track and two on each turf course and the races on all courses appeared to play out fairly.

Sunday, April 7

Fast / Firm

Clear

59

Wind 7 to 10 MPH NW

The main track played fairly. There were two races on the Outer turf, both were controlled on or near the lead, but the results were too logical to say the course was biased. One of the two Inner Turf races was won wire to wire by a 64:1 shot bringing up at least the possibility that speed was an advantage. Tough to make a conclusive decision.

Saturday, April 6

Fast / Firm

Clear

63

Wind 3 MPH SE to NE

The main track played fairly. There was one turf race and it appeared to play fairly.

Friday, April 5

Fast / Firm

Showers

43

Wind 9 MPH NW

The track remained fast despite light showers during the day. While it appeared that the best running was being done in the middle of the track early, ultimately we saw inside runners do just fine (look at the 7th and 8th races) suggesting the track played fairly throughout the day. We were back on the grass, with one mile races on each course, and there's not a lot you can tell, but the races appeared to play out fairly.

Sunday, March 31

Good

Showers

50

Wind 10 to 12 MPH E/SE

Speed was no advantage, though forward runners ran well enough, but we also saw more than a fair share of closers do well. It is fair to wonder if the best running was done outside. It is also worth noting that with showers for much of the first half of the card there was some moisture in the track.

Saturday, March 30

Fast

Clear

63

Wind 13 MPH NW/N

While it appeared that the best running was done towards the outside paths for much of the day, enough runners ran well on or near the rail to suggest the track was at least close to fair. Worth watching going forward however.

Friday, March 29

Fast

Cloudy

55

Wind 6 MPH E/NE

The track appeared to play fairly.

Sunday, March 24

Fast

Clear

55

Wind 10 MPH E/NE

While the results seemed to be dominated by closer types, enough horses ran well enough inside, and at least towards the front end, to suggest that the track was fair. The last race was won by an inside speed at 58:1.

Saturday, March 23

Fast

Clear

45

Wind 15 MPH SE

Overall the track played very fairly.

Friday, March 22

Sloppy (Sealed)

Partly Cloudy

46

Wind 13 to 15 MPH SE

After rain over the previous day, the track was sloppy and sealed. While at times it seemed like the wider the better, as the day progressed, this was not the case. In all likelihood the track played fairly with little to no path bias.

Sunday, March 17

Fast

Clear

43

Wind 8 to 10 MPH E/SE

The track appeared to play fairly. Any early questions about the rail being off appeared to be proven false as the day wore on.

Saturday, March 16

Fast

Clear

42

Wind 13 MPH SE

The results seemed fair, but there is a fair argument that the best running was done off the inside. At least worth following going forward as rail runners MIGHT have been at a disadvantage.

Friday, March 15

Fast

Cloudy

60

Wind 9 to 12 MPH NE

The track played fairly throughout the day. The rail was good but not an obvious advantage.

Sunday, March 10

Sloppy (Sealed)

Cloudy

44

Wind 12 to 14 MPH NW to NE

The track played fairly. Most running was done off the inside, with little running right down on the rail, but it's hard to say the rail was bad. It's possible at least a few paths off the rail was best. Speed did well but it was more situational, as closers were not hampered by the track.

Saturday, March 9

Fast

Clear

44

Wind 2 to 5 MPH SW/NW

The track appeared to play fairly. Much of the best running seemed to be done a path or two off the rail but there is little apparent evidence the rail was off.

Friday, March 8

Fast

Clear

36

Wind 7 MPH NE The track appeared to play fairly.

Sunday, March 3

Fast

Clear

41

Wind 3 to 8 MPH NW

It was a different track than Saturday, with the times normalizing (faster). It does seem like the best running was done at least a little off the rail, but there is no clear evidence the rail was off. In many cases, riders steered speed horses at least a path or two off the inside.

Saturday, March 2

Fast

Cloudy

39

Wind 4 MPH SE/E

It was a very interesting track. After over four inches of snow the night before, track maintenance did a remarkable job getting the surface into racing shape, but this resulted in slow final times and a surface that appeared to favor outside runners. Whether or not this was absolutely the case is open to debate (when isn't it?), as the riders stayed wide for the most part, and there were some examples (Dr Burt in the 1st race, Orchid Party in the 7th, and particularly Hit it Once More in the 8th race) of runners doing well enough right on the inside that a dead rail seems at least questionable. Surely closers were not hindered, and outside runners, sometimes relatively far outside, did well, but how biased the track may have been is at least open to debate.

Friday, March 1

Fast

Cloudy

35

Wind 7 MPH W/SW

The track played very fairly again. Save one longshot, the winners were all extremely logical.

Thursday, February 28

Fast

Clear

37

Wind 12 to 7 MPH South

The track played fairly.

Sunday, February 24

Sloppy (Sealed)

Cloudy

47

Wind 5 to 11 MPH NE

Speed appeared to be an advantage through much of the day.

Saturday, February 23

Fast

Cloudy

40

Wind 4 MPH W/NW

It's hard to label the track anything other than fair given the variety of ways the races were run. However, the last two races had a strong inside bias feel, but unless the track changed significantly after race 7 this is unlikely. It's worth considering going forward but in all likelihood the track was very fair.

Friday, February 22

Good (Harrowed)

Cloudy

43

Wind 8 MPH SE

The track played fairly.

Thursday, February 21

Sloppy (sealed)

Clear

49

Wind 10 to 8 MPH East

The track appeared to be fair though the vast majority of the running was done off the inside towards the middle of the track.

Monday, February 18

Fast

Clear

41

Wind 11 to 15 MPH E/SE

The first five races made it seem like the rail was dead, while the 6th and 7th winners both moved close to the rail in the stretch after being slightly off the rail earlier, and the 8th and 9th were not kind to inside runners. It seems inconclusive overall, but it's worth at least entertaining the idea that the rail was bad and monitoring the results going forward.

Sunday, February 17

Fast

Cloudy

35

Wind 4 to 6 MPH North

The track played fairly throughout the day.

Saturday, February 16

Fast

Clear

41

Wind 10 MPH SE

The rail was very strong and a significant advantage.

Friday, February 15

Fast

Cloudy

48

Wind 12 MPH NE

While we did see inside speed do well in some of the races, overall they were logical results, and the track appeared to play fairly.

Sunday, February 10

Fast

Clear

35

Wind 8 MPH East

The rail continues to be very strong and a big advantage.

Saturday, February 9

Fast

Clear

34

Wind 14 to 12 MPH SE

The rail was very strong and a big advantage.

Friday, February 8

Sloppy (Sealed)

Clear

49

Wind 9 to 16 MPH East

Runners didn't particularly stay inside, though the rail was good, but speed was dominant, and margins seemed exaggerated by the racetrack. To be fair, six of the eight races were won by favorites, with the second choice winning the other two. Still, speed has to be considered an advantage.

Thursday, February 7

Muddy (Harrowed)

Cloudy

44

Wind 6 MPH NE

While a couple of very short priced horses might have made it seem otherwise, despite rain during the days off, the track reverted to being heavily biased to inside runners, much as it was on Sunday 2/3.

Sunday, February 3

Fast

Clear

46

Wind 2 to 6 MPH SE to North

There was a significant advantage to inside runners throughout the day, which obviously helped speed as well in a number of cases, but it was the rail that was the edge.

Saturday, February 2

Fast

Clear

31

Wind 11 to 13 MPH NE

Inside runners did well, but it didn't appear to be a major advantage to be inside, as the track seemed to play fairly.

Friday, February 1

Fast

Cloudy

20

Wind 3 MPH SE

The track appeared to play fairly throughout the day.

Sunday, January 27

Fast

Clear

47

Wind 8 to 9 MPH NE

While speed may have seemed like an advantage, it was likely due to the rail being strong and very much the best place to be.

Saturday, January 26

Fast

Clear

32

Wind 8 to 5 MPH NE

The track played fairly and the rail was fine.

Friday, January 25

Muddy (harrowed) 1-4 / Good (harrowed) 5-9

Clear

38

Wind 14 to 16 MPH East

The rail appeared to be dead. The running was fine a path or two off the inside, but the evidence suggests you did not want to be right on the rail. Other than that, the track played fairly.

Sunday, January 20

Sloppy (sealed)

Cloudy

43

Wind 11 to 16 MPH SE

While the rain stopped a few hours before post time, temperatures dropped and wind picked up during the day. The track appeared to play fairly, but the few horses that went inside did not run well, so it's fair to assume you were better off outside.

Saturday, January 19

Fast

Cloudy

37

Wind 6 to 8 MPH W/NW

If you look at the first four races, it seemed like the inside was very much the place to be, but the rest of the card played either fairly or more a bit to the outside. Either the track changed considerably, or it was situational, and the track was essentially fair. Worth at least monitoring going forward.

Friday, January 18

Fast

Cloudy

39

Wind 1 to 6 MPH NE

While a lot of the running was done on outside paths, enough horses ran fine inside to suggest the track was likely fair.

Sunday, January 13

Fast

Cloudy

30

Wind 7 to 9 MPH SW

Speed did well during the day, as did inside runners, but many results were logical. It's worth considering the track favored front runners, but not definitive.

Saturday, January 12

Fast

Cloudy

32

Wind 3 MPH SE

The track appeared to play fairly. A lot of the running as the day wore on was done at least a path or two off the rail but there is no concrete evidence the rail was bad.

Friday, January 11

Fast

Clear

28

Wind 13 MPH SE

Much like 1/10, speed dominated the results, but those winners were logical, and there is no evidence the track was anything other than fair.

Thursday, January 10

Fast

Cloudy

34

Wind 15 MPH SE

Even though speed won four of the five races, they were logical short prices, and the track likely played fairly. Races were cancelled after the 5th when the riders felt the wind gusts were becoming too severe.

Sunday, January 6

Muddy (Harrowed)

Cloudy

46

Wind 12 MPH SE

Horses did do well racing on the rail in some of the races, which could suggest it was very much the best place to be, but enough races were won by outside runners to at least question this. At this point, the track was probably fair but it's well worth revisiting this going forward.

Saturday, January 5

Sloppy (Sealed)

Showers

45

Wind 10 to 7 MPH SW to SE

The track appeared to play fairly, though speed did fairly well throughout the day, and the riders stayed at least slightly off the rail, though it may have been more out of caution than the rail actually being off.

Friday, January 4

Fast

Cloudy

46

Wind 11 to 8 MPH NE

While the riders tended to stay at least a little off the rail, there is no evidence the rail was off, and the track played fairly.

Tuesday, January 1

Muddy (Harrowed) 1-6 / Good 7-9

Cloudy

56

Wind 14 to 16 MPH SE

While riders primarily stayed away from the inside, there is no proof there was anything wrong with the rail, so while it is worth monitoring going forward, the track may well have continued to play fairly.