Getting Started

To start things off, let’s look at a few commonly used words that every bettor should know when placing bets:

**Box**—In a box wager, you select multiple horses that may place in any order. For example, if the official order of finish for a race was 8-3-5 and your trifecta box was 3-5-8, you win. If you had a straight trifecta, 8-5-3, without boxing them, you do not have a winner. The same applies for a superfecta box with four horses. You may put more horses into one box if you would like.

**Double (Daily or Late)**—Select the winners of two consecutive races. Commonly the first two or the last two races of the day.

**Exacta**—Select the first and second place finishers of a race in the exact order.

**Place**—You collect if your horse finishes first or second. However, if your horse wins, you only collect the “place” payout.

**Post**—Starting point or position in starting gate.

**Quinella**—Select the first and second place finishers of a race in any order.

**Show**—You collect if your horse finishes first, second or third. If your horse wins, you collect only the “show” payout.

**Simulcast**—Televising a race to other tracks, off-track betting offices or other outlets for the purpose of wagering.

**Superfecta**—Select the first, second, third and fourth place finishers in exact order.

**Trifecta**—Select the first, second and third place finishers in exact order.

**Wheel**—In a wheel wager, you may select a horse(s) to finish first (second or third) with any number of horses in the other positions. You must have the correct horse in the correct finishing order to be able to collect. Some bettors select a “key” horse to finish in a certain position and wheel it with several other horses (a partial wheel) instead of the entire field.

**Win**—The first horse to cross the finish line wins. The horse must finish first to pay.

**Win-Place-Show (WPS) or Across The Board**—If the horse finishes first, the bet will pay win, place and show. If the horse places second, the bet will pay place and show. If the horse places third, the payoff is for the show bet only.

Track Conditions

**Fast**—Footling at best; dry, fast and even.

**Good**—Condition between fast and muddy.

**Sloppy**—Condition of footing; wet on surface with firm bottom.

**Muddy**—Deep condition of racetrack after being soaked with water.
Types of Races

Maiden Race—A race exclusively for horses that have never won a race.

Claiming Race—The most common of all races. A race where owners can put their horses up for sale for a specified amount prior to the running of the race. Once the race begins, a claimed horse becomes the property of the new owner though purse money from the race goes to the former owner.

Allowance Race—One step above claiming races. Horses are not for sale in allowance races. Horses competing in allowance races are usually faster than in claiming races and are generally being prepared to compete in better stakes events.

Handicap Race—A race for which the racing secretary has assigned weights after evaluating each entrant’s past performances. The idea is to burden the best horses in the field with the most weight, which would theoretically improve the chances of the less accomplished entrants.

Stakes Race—The highest class of race reserved for the best horses. Owners typically pay an entry fee to nominate, enter and run their horses.

Placing Your Bets

So, you’ve made your choices and it’s time to place your bets. Once you get up to the teller at the window, be sure and say the following:

- Name the track you wish to wager on.
- State the race number you wish to wager on.
- State the amount you wish to wager (or bet).
- State the type of wager (for example, a win, a place, a trifecta, etc.).
- State the number(s) of the horse(s) you wish to wager on. For example, “Belmont Race #4, $2 to win on #6.”

Once you get your racing ticket, make sure it’s correct before you leave the wagering window. Tellers aren’t perfect and sometimes mistakes do happen.

Keep in mind that this brochure is a simple, basic getting-started guide. There are plenty of books and manuals, even websites, where you can learn more about handicapping. Visit CherokeeStarRewards.com and click on West Siloam Springs OTB for more information.