

## Vigorish vs. "True" Vigorish

### **What is "Vigorish" (Track Take) in horse racing?**

Simply put, Vigorish is the "juice" or money the house charges for their services. By horse racing standards, Vigorish or "track take" is the cost of running a race track. That is, the track "takes" money from the pot to cover operating expenses, purses and taxes.

### **So what is Breakage and "True" Vigorish?**

Breakage is the result of tracks rounding down the payoff amounts. In most states the rounding down of payoffs amounts to the nearest \$0.20 adds another 1% 'juice' against the betting public. In New York, the rounding down to the nearest \$0.10 adds 0.6% to the TakeOut. "True" Vigorish is the total percent amount taken from the betting pool (Track TakeOut + Breakage = TruVig (True Vigorish)).

### Breakage and "TruVig"

<b>Win Bets</b>			TakeOut %	Breakage	
Track	State	Date	(from DRF)	Impact	TruVig
Del Mar	CA	2008-2011	15.43%	0.98%	16.41%
Saratoga*	NY	2009-2011	16.00%	0.61%	16.61%
Keeneland	KY	April06-April'11	16.00%	0.95%	16.95%
Churchill Downs	KY	2008-2011	16.00%	1.01%	17.01%
Gulfstream Park**	FL	2009-2011	17.00%	1.00%	18.00%

\*NYRA Increases Takeout 1% (3/15/2009)  
\*\*Incorrectly listed on the DRF website as 15%

### **How does "TruVig" affect my winnings?**

As you know, horse race wagering is pari-mutuel betting and not even money betting. For simplicity sake, let's assume horse racing is even money betting, i.e., you wager \$100 to win \$100. Factoring in TruVig, a bettor would wager \$100 and only win \$83 – thus the -17% ROI.

### **How to improve your odds of winning at the race track?**

TruVig puts the wagering public at a -17% starting point. This usually deters most gamblers away from horse race betting (slot machines only take 1-2% per pull). But - the great thing about horse race wagering is the pari-mutuel betting/odds - where each dollar is bet against other gamblers in the pool. So - can you bet smarter than the other horse bettors at the track and beat -17%?

YES! Because, [BTSM was designed as a handicapping system](#) that not merely picks winners but also applies a formula based on proprietary odds to take advantage of differences in track odds and expected payout to make smarter betting decisions and maximize your earnings.

This is accomplished by balancing how much you flex your wager on the favorite and what other horses in a particular race show value – meaning they are not the track favorite, but the BTSM data and statistical models predict a horse is undervalued and you have a very good chance of getting paid 10 to 1 money on a horse we believe is really a 5 to 1 horse.

### **So.....how do you make smarter betting decisions?**

A value based handicapping system like [Be The Smart Money](#). See how a Smart Sheet can help you bet smarter and "Stay in the Black"

For a more detailed explanation on Vigorish and how to incorporate a value based odds system to help you win at the race track – [Click Here](#)