



CLAIMING CROWN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES 2026

Summary of Conditions

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2026

Run-Up Dates:

Friday, October 23 Eligibility Requests close. The requestor must identify horse and Claiming Crown race (separate administration fee required for each eligibility request to a race)
 Sunday, November 1 Lists of all eligible horses will be released
 Saturday, November 7 Entries taken at Churchill Downs

Location: Churchill Downs, Louisville Kentucky

Racing Program: Claiming Crown Championship Series 2026 will consist of nine races with starter allowance conditions as described below and a total of \$1,200,000 in guaranteed purses plus KTDF funding.

Claiming Crown Race	Claiming Level	Age Sex	Distance	Surface	Purse
1 - The Kent Stirling Memorial Iron Horse	\$8,000	3&Up	8.5 f	D	\$100,000 guaranteed plus \$10,000 KTDF
2 - The Ready's Rocket Express	\$8,000	3&Up	6.0 f	D	\$100,000 guaranteed plus \$10,000 KTDF
3 - The Glass Slipper	\$12,500	3&Up f/m	8.0 f	D	\$100,000 guaranteed plus \$10,000 KTDF
4 - The Empress	\$16,000	3&Up f/m	6.0 f	D	\$100,000 guaranteed plus \$10,000 KTDF
5 - The Rapid Transit	\$16,000	3&Up	7.0 f	D	\$125,000 guaranteed plus \$15,000 KTDF
6 - The Tom Metzen Memorial Canterbury	\$25,000	3&Up	5.5 f	T	\$150,000 guaranteed plus \$20,000 KTDF
7 - The Tiara	\$25,000	3&Up f/m	8.5 f	T	\$150,000 guaranteed plus \$20,000 KTDF
8 - The Emerald	\$25,000	3&Up	8.5 f	T	\$175,000 guaranteed plus \$20,000 KTDF
9 - The Jewel	\$35,000	3&Up	9.0 f	D	\$200,000 guaranteed plus \$25,000 KTDF

Eligibility will be:

Determined at the time of the request, the owner or their authorized agent must identify a specific horse for eligibility and the intended Claiming Crown race. The owner of record at the time of the eligibility request, or his authorized agent if received or postmarked on or before 12:00 midnight EST October 23, 2026, accompanied by the fee of \$250 (two hundred fifty dollars) for each Claiming Crown race requesting eligibility. Eligibility Requests may be made by mail, email, fax, or phone and sent to Churchill Downs.

1. Eligibility Requests close Friday October 23, 2026
2. Late Requests for Eligibility, may be made up to the time of entry

Administration Fees:

Race	Fee
1. The Iron Horse	\$250
2. The Express	\$250
3. The Glass Slipper	\$250
4. The Emperess	\$250
5. The Rapid Transit	\$250
6. The Canterbury	\$250
7. The Tiara	\$250
8. The Emerald	\$250
9. The Jewel	\$250

Administration fees are non-refundable.



3. Late Requests for Eligibility:

Late Requests for Eligibility after October 23 and up to time of entry must be accompanied by a fee of \$1,250 (one thousand two-hundred and fifty dollars) will be accepted by the owner of record or his/her authorized agent, at or before the time of entry on Saturday, November 7, 2026. At the time of the request, the owner of record or his/her authorized agent must identify both the horse and the intended Claiming Crown race for which the request has been made.

Purse Distribution

All Claiming Crown purses shall be distributed as follows: payment of 1% to all owners of horses finishing sixth through last and of the remaining purse of the race,

62% to the winner;
20% to the second place;
10% to the third place;
5% to the fourth place;
3% to the fifth place.

Eligibility Requirements

General Eligibility:

To be eligible to compete in any Claiming Crown event, a horse must have started for a claiming price in 2025-2026, except for the Iron Horse and the Express, which have no 'since' date, in a race restricted to Thoroughbreds and conducted at a recognized North American pari-mutuel racetrack. Only races conducted at recognized North American pari-mutuel racetracks and restricted to Thoroughbreds are considered for eligibility requirements and weight allowances.

To be eligible to compete in any Claiming Crown event, a horse must have submitted the administration fee and be determined eligible with Churchill Downs at the time of entry on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

Eligibility for a Designated Race:

In addition to the General Eligibility requirements, to be eligible to compete in a specific designated Claiming Crown event a horse must have started once at the claiming level associated with that Claiming Crown event, or at a lower claiming level in 2025-2026, with the exception of the Iron Horse and Express, which have no 'since' date.



