Accessible Data Tables in PDF Documents

State of Iowa

May 2025



Headers rule

- Checks for column and row headers
- Column and row headers provide labels for each data cell
- Table content is not tabular if headers are not applicable



If tables have been used for layout, but the content is not tabular data, pull the tags (<P>, <L>, etc.) out of the table and delete the empty containers (<Table>, <TR>, <TH>, <TD>).





Regularity rule

- Check that data tables contain the same number of columns in each row, and rows in each column.
- A "complex data table" has cells that span multiple rows or columns, making the table irregular.



Complex Tables

Metric	2020	2021	2022				
Prairie Meadows							
Performances	5,179	7,364	7,999				
Attendance	1,183,557	2,161,839	2,069,909				
Mutuel Handle	\$41,627,619	\$46,734,763	\$39,728,364				
Breakage	\$36,912	\$41,017	\$41,260				
Bluffs Run							
Performances	4,493	4,934	4,936				
Attendance	Not	Not	Not Available				
Mutuel Handle	\$4,231,478	\$5,845,389	\$5,576,705				
Breakage	\$18,350	\$27,579	\$45,938				
Iowa Greyhound Park							
Performances	2,762	3,536	3,540				
Attendance	135,034	212,248	84,762				
Mutuel Handle	\$4,068,056	\$5,240,870	\$4,154,043				
Breakage	\$12,683,067	\$1 9,912,268	\$2,400,682				

If a table must remain complex, additional markup must be added in the Table Editor.



Complex Table Header Cells

For each header cell:

- Indicate the number of columns or rows spanned
- Every header cell must have a unique ID
- Right click → Auto Generate Header Cell IDs

Metric		2020	2021	2022
Prairie Meadows				
Performances	Tab	le Cell <u>P</u> roperties		Table Cell Properties X
Attendance Table Editor Options				Туре
Mutuel Handle				
Breakage	Auto Generate Header Cell IDs			<u>Header Cell</u> <u>Scope:</u> None
Bluffs Run				O <u>D</u> ata Cell
Performances		4,493	4,934	Attributes
Attendance		Not	Not	
Mutuel Handle		\$4,231,478	\$5,845,389	<u>R</u> ow Span: 1
Breakage		\$18,350	\$27,579	Column Span: 4
lowa Greyhound Pa	ark			
Performances		2,762	3,536	ID: R2C1_Prairie
Attendance		135,034	212,248	Associated Header Cell IDs:
Mutuel Handle		\$4,068,056	\$5,240,870	
Breakage		\$12,683,067	\$19,912,268	=
				OK Cancel



Complex Table Data Cells

For each data cell:

• List the ID of each associated header cell.

Metric		2020		2021		20)22			
Prairie Meadows										
Performances		5,179	Table	Cell Properties						×
Attendance		1,183,55								
Mutuel Handle		\$41,627,6	T	ype						
Breakage		\$36,912	(⊖ <u>H</u> eader Cell	9	cope:	None		~	
Bluffs Run			0	Data Cell	-				_	·
Performances		4,493		o <u>o</u> ata cen						
Attendance		Not	A	ttributes						
Mutuel Handle		\$4,231,41			Row	Span:	1			
Breakage		\$18,350								
lowa Greyhound Parl	<				<u>C</u> olumn	Span:	1			
Performances		2,762				<u>I</u> D:				
Attendance		135,034								
Mutuel Handle		\$4,068,0		Associated H	eader Ce	ell IDs:	R3C1_Perf R2C1_Prair			
Breakage		\$12,683,0					R1C2_2020			-
							L			
								ОК	Car	ncel



Every complex table can be rearranged or split into multiple tables to avoid being irregular.

Metric	2020	2021	2022
Prairie Meadows Performances	5,179	7,364	7,999
Prairie Meadows Attendance	1,183,557	2,161,839	2,069,909
Prairie Meadows Mutuel Handle	\$41,627,619	\$46,734,763	\$39,728,364
Prairie Meadows Breakage	\$36,912	\$41,017	\$41,260
Bluffs Run Performances	4,493	4,934	4,936
Bluffs Run Attendance	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Bluffs Run Mutuel Handle	\$4,231,478	\$5,845,389	\$5,576,705
Bluffs Run Breakage	\$18,350	\$27,579	\$45,938
Iowa Greyhound Park Performances	2,762	3,536	3,540
Iowa Greyhound Park Attendance	135,034	212,248	84,762
Iowa Greyhound Park Mutuel Handle	\$4,068,056	\$5,240,870	\$4,154,043
Iowa Greyhound Park Breakage	\$12,683,067	\$19,912,268	\$2,400,682



Complex, but in a different way

If a table must remain complex, use two columns of row headers or two rows of column headers.

Park	Metric	2020	2021	2022	
Prairie Meadows	Performances	5,179	7,364	7,999	
	Attendance	1,183,557	2,161,839	2,069,909	
	Mutuel Handle	\$41,627,619	\$46,734,763	\$39,728,364	
	Breakage	\$36,912	\$41,017	\$41,260	
Bluffs Run	Performances	4,493	4,934	4,936	
	Attendance	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	
	Mutuel Handle	\$4,231,478	\$5,845,389	\$5,576,705	
	Breakage	\$18,350	\$27,579	\$45,938	
lowa Greyhound Park	Performances	2,762	3,536	3,540	
	Attendance	135,034	212,248	84,762	
	Mutuel Handle	\$4,068,056	\$5,240,870	\$4,154,043	
	Breakage	\$12,683,067	\$19,912,268	\$2,400,682	





Questions?

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