

## Drug Rule Amendments

**Veterinary Declarations must be made on official forms.**

### Amendments to NCHA Drug Rules - How Do They Affect Members?

#### NCHA Drug Policy

- All horses winning Aged events managed by NCHA will be drug tested.
- At other shows holding more than one Aged event, at least one horse from any Aged event will be tested.
- All testing will be by blood sample with the blood testing providing a determination of drug levels i.e. not a screening test.
- A registered laboratory will perform the test
- A veterinarian must gazette all drugs prescribed and administered to a horse up to 10 days before competition. This information must include a statement that the horse is fit for competition, the reason a drug has been given, the drugs used, dose & time of last dose administration. All of this is MANDATORY.
- Any horse found to have a swab in the absence of a veterinary certificate will be referred to the NCHA Drug Committee.
- The NCHA Drug Committee will determine whether an offence has been committed and what penalty shall be imposed.

#### What does this mean to you –

- 1 There is no limitation on medication if all treatments are gazetted and appropriate veterinary documentation is supplied to the NCHA prior to competition.
- 2 Any dispute or concerns about the ability of a horse, so certified, to enter for competition would require a second veterinary opinion.
- 3 The intent of the current drug rules is to allow for treatment of minor ailments, with declaration, but not to permit the indiscriminate use of potent medications for pain masking or performance enhancement.
- 4 If the veterinary declaration does not support the medications found in the horse or if the levels of drug detected grossly exceed prescribed doses, then you are in contravention of the rules.
- 5 Veterinary examinations with prescription of medication greater than 10 days prior to competition do not constitute a pre-competition assessment of suitability of a horse to compete, especially if a horse has been prescribed anti inflammatory or analgesic medication.

#### What has prompted changes to the drug policy –

A lack of a standard declaration form has meant that in some instances there has not been an appreciation of the detail required when gazetting treatment of a competitor horse.

Similarly, treatment has been often notified but no declaration as to the horse's fitness to compete been made as per requirements.

The situation has arisen where medication has been prescribed and declared but found to be in excess of prescribed dose. In some instances this might be attributed to a perception that if a horse has been treated for a particular problem and declared suitable for competition, then the horse has the right to enter the competition with active levels of any medication prescribed at the initial examination, even though that examination may have been several days prior to the event.

There have been occasions when medications of inappropriate potency have been prescribed

A recognition of animal welfare concerns with regard to the administration of powerful analgesics and also with regard to overexercising of horses pre-competition.

#### What are the changes to NCHA drug policy -

Consideration has been given to the need to control substance abuse without compromising the ability for a trainer to present a horse for competition that has required some medical attention leading up to the event. In arriving at a position that supports this premise it is obvious that a "no drugs" policy as per Rules of Racing for thoroughbreds and standard breeds is inappropriate. Therefore gazetting of all medication usage is designed to allow for appropriate medication.

In order to assist owners and trainers the Drug Committee has compiled a list of "approved medications" which may be suitable by a veterinarian for treatment of a horse prior to competition. In formulating this list consideration has been given to potency of drugs, various conditions which may warrant treatment, efficacy of medications for specific conditions.

In advertising an "approved drugs list" it is implicit that all pre-competition use of any of these drugs is only on the basis of approval and declaration by a veterinarian and that this declaration is made on an approved NCHA Veterinary Declaration form. Any departure from this will be considered to be a case of unapproved medication and a direct contravention of the rules.

There are numerous medications which are not on the "approved medications" list that may be prescribed by a veterinarian. All drug usage must be declared. It will be at the discretion of the NCHA Drug Committee whether a horse so declared may be entered for competition. This does not imply that all horses treated with drugs only from the "approved list" and so declared will automatically have right of entry to competition. Any horse under medical treatment prior to competition may be refused entry into competition on NCHA veterinary advice.

#### **NCHA APPROVED MEDICATIONS**

- ANTIBIOTICS  
no restrictions
- ANTIINFLAMMATORIES  
Phenylbutazone

Ketoprofen  
Meclofenamic Acid  
Hyaluronic Acid  
Pentosan Polysulphate  
Carprofen  
Copper Indomethacin  
DMSO [dimethyl sulfoxide]

· CORTISONES

Triamcinolone  
Methyl prednisolone  
Prednisolone  
Dexamethasone  
Flumethasone

· HORMONES

Oral Progestins  
Depot Progesterone

· SEDATIVES

Acepromazine  
Reserpine

· NON-SPECIFIC

Ranitidine  
Clenbuterol

**How do the new rules then affect you –**

1. You MUST not enter a horse for competition without an NCHA Veterinary Declaration if the horse has been under treatment for a medical condition within 10 days of competition.
2. You should advise your vet of the list of approved medications BEFORE any treatment is undertaken. Any departure from this list may seriously compromise your horse's clearance to compete. This does not prevent your vet from prescribing any medication deemed necessary to treat a particular condition. However, for minor ailments, you should adhere to the approved list of medications.
3. You must understand that any departure from declared drug usage by dose, time of administration, drug used invalidates your declaration and a positive swab revealing this occurrence will be treated in the same manner as illicit drug administration.
4. Whereas current drug rules have a clause allowing for a positive swab to be assessed in light of the detected level in relation to effect on performance, this opportunity for interpretation is unlikely to prevail for drug residues detected that are not on the approved drug list.
5. Any positive swab for drugs detected in an undeclared situation will be dealt with by the NCHA Drug Committee as a matter of urgency.
6. On any given day of competition the dosage of a drug used and declared should not exceed recommended drug dosage. These levels should correlate with laboratory detection levels.