

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities is to reduce exercise-based injuries and equine fatalities using evidence-based best practices applied in a collaborative multi-jurisdiction program. The Program works with Mid-Atlantic industry stakeholders and Thoroughbred racing and equine experts to develop and continually improve best practices and to implement them at every racetrack in the region. The Program also works to educate all stakeholders and the general public about these initiatives and the positive results achieved. The paramount goal is protection of the horses and, by extension, the jockeys, exercise riders and backstretch workers. Publicizing the efforts of racing stakeholders on behalf of the horses will also strengthen the confidence of the general public in Thoroughbred racing. New owners will be encouraged to invest in the sport and will contribute to sustainable growth of the racing industry in the Mid-Atlantic region.



## Partners:

The Mid-Atlantic stakeholders and regulators who have committed to the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan To Reduce Equine Fatalities include:

Delaware Park, Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Delaware Racing Commission, Stronach Group, Maryland Jockey Club, Maryland State Fair (Timonium), Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Maryland Racing Commission, Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Monmouth Park, New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, New Jersey Racing Commission, New Jersey Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Finger Lakes Racetrack, Finger Lakes Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, New York State Gaming Commission, New York Thoroughbred Breeders Inc., Penn National Gaming, Parx Racing, Presque Isle Downs, Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Pennsylvania HBPA, Pennsylvania Racing Commission, Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, Colonial Downs, Virginia Thoroughbred Association, Virginia Racing Commission, Mountaineer Park, Charles Town HBPA, Mountaineer HBPA, West Virginia Racing Commission, and National Steeplechase Association.

### Contacts:

Alan Foreman, 410-336-0525, [alan@tharacing.com](mailto:alan@tharacing.com)

Dr. Scott Palmer, 518-441-7916, [scott.palmer@gaming.ny.gov](mailto:scott.palmer@gaming.ny.gov)

Andy Belfiore, 732-673-2855, [andy@tharacing.com](mailto:andy@tharacing.com)

<http://tharacing.com/resources/mid-atlantic-strategic-plan-to-reduce-equine-fatalities/>



## MID-ATLANTIC STRATEGIC PLAN TO REDUCE EQUINE FATALITIES



## Horsemen's Guide

## Key Regulations

- **BISPHOSPHONATES:** The use of bisphosphonates is prohibited in any horse under four years of age, and then only for diagnosed cases of navicular disease (*total ban in Maryland and Pennsylvania*).
- **JOINT INJECTIONS:** A horse is ineligible to start if it has received any intra-articular injection within the preceding 14 days (*Not adopted in West Virginia*).
- **NSAIDS:** No NSAID may be administered at less than 48 hours to the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is entered (*Not adopted in West Virginia*).
- **STACKING:** To avoid a “stacking” violation, do not use more than one NSAID within seven days of a race.
- **THYROID SUPPLEMENTS:** Trainers may not have thyroid supplements on their premises on the racetrack or training centers, nor may they administer such supplements, without a specific therapeutic use exemption.
- **ENHANCED PENALTIES:** Overages for permitted NSAIDs carry an automatic loss of purse for the owner and minimum \$1,000 fine for the trainer for the first offense, absent mitigating circumstances. Penalties increase for subsequent .

## Best Practices

### Claimed Horse Health Records

The transfer of horse health records is vital to maintaining continuity of health care and allowing for comprehensive medical assessments for racehorses purchased out of claiming races. For the protection of the horse, all joint injection records must be submitted within 48 hours to the party responsible for transferring the information to the horse’s new owner or trainer. Within seven days of a claim, the previous trainer must complete and submit the standardized Horse Health Record.

### Layoff Report

The Layoff Report is necessary to ensure that regulatory veterinarians have a comprehensive medical record of any horse that has not raced for 150 days or more, and have the opportunity to examine the horse when necessary prior to entry in a race. The trainer of any horse that has not raced for 150 or more days must complete the standardized Layoff Report, supplying all relevant medical history, and submit it to the chief regulatory veterinarian or equine medical director of the track where the horse will be entered no less than 30 days prior to entry.

### Shock Wave Therapy

Only veterinarians duly licensed by the state’s racing regulatory agency are permitted to perform Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy. The regulatory veterinarian must be notified in writing, on the prescribed form, within 24 hours of such treatment. The treating veterinarian is responsible for submitting the prescribed form. The horse will not be allowed to race or breeze for a minimum of 10 days following treatment, with the day of the treatment to be considered the first day of the count. The horse will be placed on the Vet’s List or Shock Wave List during the 10-day stand down period. The owner, trainer, and treating veterinarian are subject to appropriate disciplinary action upon violation of these rules.

**Once entered to race, no horse shall be permitted to leave the racetrack grounds prior to racing. Any horse that leaves the racetrack grounds between the time of entry and the race will be scratched by the Stewards.**

*The information in this brochure is an overview of the Best Practices and Regulations supported by the Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan to Reduce Equine Fatalities. Horsemen are advised to review local regulations in each state where they race.*

