

Synopsis of 2014 Changes to Medication and Veterinary Regulations Virginia Racing Commission

Uniform medication regulations adopted by the Mid-Atlantic racing jurisdictions and by the National Steeplechase Association became effective January of 2014. The following is a synopsis of the new medication rules:

1. With the single exception of furosemide, all medication is prohibited on race day (the 24-hour period prior to the scheduled post). Furosemide may be administered intravenously (IV) to listed horses no later than 4 hours prior to post, on the grounds of the racetrack by a veterinarian or veterinary technician who is specifically designated by the commission. Private veterinarians are not allowed to handle a horse on race day prior to its post;
2. Those medications which do not affect the body systems do not constitute a violation of the rules when identified in a post-race sample, unless the reported concentration indicates a likely administration on race day (within 24 hours of post). This category includes most of the antibiotics, anti-fungals, and dewormers;
3. A list of therapeutic medications considered essential to racehorses, with the corresponding laboratory thresholds and withdrawal guidelines, has been uniformly adopted by adjoining jurisdictions. The 24 medications in this category are listed below. To further enhance this uniformity, testing laboratories of all jurisdictions shall be accredited to the same standards.
4. Any other substance detected by the testing laboratory constitutes a violation of the rules, with suggested penalties specified in the latest version of the ARCI Uniform Classification Guidelines.
5. Beginning January 2014, the penalty phase of the medication rule incorporates a point system to enhance penalties to chronic offenders. Points are assigned according to the severity of medication violation; when a trainer reaches a pre-determined level of points, a mandatory suspension in addition to the standard penalty is imposed for the infraction. The schedule of points is as follows:

Medications with Penalty Class A-D in the ARCI Uniform Classification Guidelines, shall be assigned points as follows:

Class	Points If Controlled Substance	Points If Non-Controlled Substance
Class A	N/A	6
Class B	2	4
Class C	1	2
Class D	½	1

In addition to the penalty for the underlying offense, the following enhancements shall be imposed upon a trainer based upon the points accumulated in his/her official ARCI record:

Points Accumulated	Suspension in days
3-5.5	30
6-8.5	60
9-10.5	180
11 or more	360

Threshold concentrations and suggested withdrawal times of the 24 controlled therapeutic substances:

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Dose/Route</u>	<u>Withdrawal</u>	<u>Threshold</u>
Acepromazine	0.05 mg/kg IV	48 hours	10 ng/ml urine
Betamethasone (IA only)	9 mg – 1 joint	7 days	10 pg/ml plasma
Butorphanol	0.1 mg/kg IV	48 hours	2 ng/ml plasma
Clenbuterol	0.8 mcg/kg PO bid	14 days	LOD plasma
Dantrolene	500 mg PO	48 hours	100 pg/ml plasma
Detomidine	40 mcg/kg PO	72 hours	LOD plasma
Dexamethasone	0.05 mg/kg IV, IM, PO	72 hours	5 pg/ml plasma
Diclofenac (topical)	5" ribbon topically	48 hours	5 ng/ml plasma
DMSO	50 ml PO or IV	48 hours	10 mcg/ml plasma
Firocoxib	0.1 mg/kg PO x 4d	14 days	20 ng/ml plasma
Flunixin	1.1 mg/kg IV	28 hours	20 ng/ml plasma
Furosemide	500 mg IV	4 hours	100 ng/ml plasma
Glycopyrrolate	1 mg total IV	48 hours	3 pg/ml plasma
Ketoprofen	2.2 mg/kg IV	28 hours	10 ng/ml plasma
Lidocaine	200 mg total SQ	72 hours	20 pg/ml plasma
Mepivacaine	0.07 mg/kg SQ	72 hours	LOD plasma
Methocarbamol (IV only)	15 mg/kg IV	48 hours	1 ng/ml plasma
Methylprednisolone* (IA only)	100 mg – 1 joint	21 days*	100 pg/ml plasma
Omeprazole	3.9 mg/kg PO	24 hours	1 ng/ml urine
Phenylbutazone (IV only)	4.0 mg/kg IV	28 hours	2 mcg/ml plasma
Prednisolone	1 mg/kg PO	48 hours	1 ng/ml plasma
Procaine Penicillin**	IM	Entry**	25 ng/ml plasma
Triamcinolone Acetonide (IA)	9 mg – 1 joint	7 days	100 pg/ml plasma
Xylazine	IV	48 hours	10 pg/ml plasma

Detection of a therapeutic substance at concentrations higher than the reported threshold will result in sanctions (overage)!

LOD = level of detection

*Methylprednisolone following intra-articular administration of 100 mg can be detected at 100 pg/ml for up to 21 days. Its use is therefore problematic!!!

** Mandatory 6 hour surveillance of horse prior to post.