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NEW YORK STATE GAMING COMMISSION AND NYRA ISSUE ENHANCED SECURITY PROTOCOLS FOR HORSES RUNNING IN THE WHITNEY AND TRAVERS STAKES

The New York State Gaming Commission and The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) today announced enhanced security protocols for horses running in the August 2 Whitney Stakes and the August 23 Travers Stakes.

All horses potentially participating in the Whitney (\$1.5 million) and the Travers Stakes (\$1.25 million) will be subject to out-of-competition testing and must be on the grounds by noon the Wednesday before the two races. Trainers of horses participating in the races must provide complete veterinary records for three days leading up to the races. Additionally, horses will be monitored at all times during the 72-hour period leading up to these races.

“For the past several years, these measures have proven to be effective tools to bring added transparency and integrity to New York’s horse racing,” said Commission Executive Director Robert Williams. “We will continue to be vigilant and responsive to increase access and accountability when it comes to equine health and safety.”

“New York continues to set the bar for racehorse stewardship with these protocols,” said New York Equine Medical Director Dr. Scott E. Palmer. “Providing top quality veterinary care in a secure environment for these horses is a team effort, and these measures will help bring all parties together to do what is right by the horse.”

“In conjunction with the nationally recognized reforms already implemented by The New York Racing Association over the past two years, the common-sense, prudent steps announced today will further safeguard our equine athletes, and will further preserve the integrity of the racing competition during these two major stakes races,” stated Christopher Kay, President and CEO of The New York Racing Association. “Working in partnership with the State of New York, we have made our racing operations far safer for our equine athletes and jockeys – and have continued to drive catastrophic injuries down well below the industry average. These steps announced today will continue this important progress.”

“Out of competition testing should be embraced much more than it is in this country and the New York State Gaming Commission and The New York Racing Association Inc. should both be commended for conducting it along with the other security protocols that have been put in place for the Whitney and the Travers Stakes,” said James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. “As we have said in the past about veterinary records, we also encourage all jurisdictions to follow New York’s lead and in addition, consider disclosing veterinary records for up to two weeks prior to the event in order to reflect the longer-acting therapeutic medications as well.”

“We thank the horsemen participating in New York's most prestigious races for their continued cooperation and support in instituting these enhanced security protocols,” said Rick Violette, Jr., president of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. “We all welcome best practices to preserve the integrity of our sport.”

The Commission and NYRA have mandated the following protocols and steps for horses participating in the Whitney and Travers Stakes:

- The Commission will take out-of-competition blood samples of horses competing in the races and send them to the N.Y.S. Equine Drug Testing and Research Program at Morrisville State College for immediate testing. The Commission will coordinate with other jurisdictions to obtain out-of-competition samples from horses that are not stabled in New York State.
- Horses participating must be on the grounds by Noon the Wednesday before the races. Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the Stewards.
- Horses will be monitored at all times by additional security personnel for 72 hours leading up to these races.
- Security personnel will monitor all treatments performed by veterinarians. All containers for medications administered will be retained by the Commission for possible testing.
- A full daily veterinarian's record of all medications and treatments given to horses participating in these races from Noon the Wednesday before the races until race day will be provided to the Commission. Any changes to treatment must be disclosed to the Commission. If medications and treatment records are not provided to the Commission prior to treatment, veterinarians will not be permitted to treat the horse until the issue is resolved. The Commission will post these records on its Web site each day leading up to the races.
- Entry-exit logs will be maintained by additional security from NYRA and the Commission. All persons – including veterinarians, trainers, assistant trainers, farriers, owners or other connections – on entering the stall, or engaging in contact with the horse or performing any service for the horse, must have a valid Commission license on their person. Such persons will be logged in by security personnel with the reason for their visit. Routine stall and horse maintenance by identified grooms and staff will be monitored but will be exempt from logging.
- All equipment, feed, hay bales, etc. are subject to administrative searches and checks.
- As is current policy, Lasix administration will take place in the horses' own stalls by a NYRA veterinarian. Syringes will be preserved by the Commission for possible testing.
- On the day before the Whitney and the Travers Stakes, no veterinarians will treat horses without first making an appointment with Commission investigators.
- The Commission, in conjunction with NYRA, will appoint a single 24-hour point person each day for trainers and connections to contact in case of an emergency.
- On the day of the Whitney and the Travers Stakes, no treatment will be permitted (beyond Lasix for specifically designated horses) unless it is for an emergency or as approved by the Stewards.
- On race day, horses participating in the Whitney and the Travers Stakes will be required to be in the Assembly barn between 45 minutes to 1 hour before post time for TC02 sampling. They will then be escorted with security to the paddock.
- Horses in the races will receive priority for paddock schooling with security present.

The Commission and NYRA will provide educational materials on the protocols to horsepersons, connections, veterinarians, security and all appropriate parties prior to and upon arrival at the track.

About the New York Racing Association, Inc.

Created more than 50 years ago so that New York State could share in the boom in racing that followed World War II, The New York Racing Association, Inc., holds the exclusive right to conduct racing at Aqueduct, Belmont Park, and Saratoga until 2033. NYRA tracks are the cornerstone of the state's Thoroughbred business, which contributes more than \$2 billion annually to New York State's urban, suburban and rural economy. NYRA's Mission is "Meeting the highest standards in Thoroughbred racing and equine safety."

About the New York State Gaming Commission

The New York State Gaming Commission regulates all aspects of gaming and gambling activity in the state, including horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering, class III Indian gaming, video lottery terminal facilities at race tracks, the state lottery and charitable gaming.

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