

New York State Racing and Wagering Board

Phone: 518-395-5400

www.racing.state.ny.us

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CONTACT: Lee Park

lee.park@racing.ny.gov

NYS RACING AND WAGERING BOARD UPDATES CLENBUTEROL AND DEPOMEDROL RULES, CREATES INNOVATIVE DATA ENTRY SYSTEM FOR CORTICOSTEROID ADMINISTRATIONS

The New York State Racing and Wagering Board today, in response to a recommendation from the Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety and industry consensus, issued timeframe changes to recently approved emergency rules regarding administrations of Clenbuterol and DepoMedrol to Thoroughbred racehorses.

The Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety recommended that the Racing and Wagering Board (RWB) amend its Thoroughbred rule regarding the timeframe for Clenbuterol administration from the original 21 days to 14 days. The Task Force also recommended that the RWB amend its Thoroughbred rule regarding intra-articular administration of DepoMedrol from 15 days to 7 days. The rules apply to all Thoroughbred horseracing in New York State, both at New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA)-operated tracks and Finger Lakes Race Track.

With these timeframe reductions, New York's equine drug rules remain among the strictest in the nation.

"New York continues to lead the nation in innovative and impactful racing regulation and implementation," said RWB Chairman John D. Sabini. "In recommending these changes, the Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety demonstrated an admirable and continued dedication to improving equine safety and the functionality of the industry as a whole. We are hopeful that with these changes, other jurisdictions will follow suit and bring much-needed consistency to drug rules across the country."

In addition to being responsive to the Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety's recommendations, these changes put New York's Thoroughbred rules in line with recommendations of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC).

To ensure compliance of the new rules, the effective date of these changes will be December 26, 2012, coinciding with the post-holiday continuation of NYRA's inner-track meet at Aqueduct.

Pertinent text from the Task Force's letter recommending the changes, as well as a timeline of effective dates and full text of the rule changes can be found below.

Additionally, the Racing and Wagering Board is putting the finishing touches on an innovative data entry system for trainers and veterinarians to enter corticosteroid administrations to ensure

compliance with RWB Thoroughbred rules. The Equine Steroid Administration Log (ESAL), expected to go live on December 26, will allow trainers and veterinarians to easily record the administration of corticosteroid steroids to Thoroughbred racehorses.

The database will automatically generate a list of horses that have been administered substances, accessible by examining veterinarians, RWB personnel, track veterinarians conducting pre-race inspections, stewards and claimants. Each entry will list the name of the corticosteroid administered, the location of the administration and the date the horse would be cleared to race in accordance with RWB Rule 4043.2(i)

RWB personnel will work with trainers and veterinarians to ensure registration and participation with ESAL.

Text from December 10, 2012 letter to the RWB from Dr. Scott Palmer, Chair of the New York Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety:

“On November 13, 2012 the Board of Directors of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium voted to establish a 14 day withdrawal time and a testing threshold of 140 pg/ml in urine for Clenbuterol. This recommendation was based upon the RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee’s review of recent research conducted at the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at the University of California Davis. This withdrawal time and testing threshold were adopted by the ARCI at its December meeting as a national rule recommendation.

In preparing our Report, the Task Force was mindful that a recommendation on Clenbuterol would be forthcoming from the RMTC, but we believed that it was appropriate to recommend a “bridge” withdrawal time pending the RMTC’s recommendation. We understand that the RMTC’s recommendation was based upon assurances that the 14 day withdrawal time could be enforced by the testing laboratories throughout North America, a concern that was expressed when we issued our 21 day recommendation. We are further assured that the RMTC’s recommendation will not undermine the desire of the Task Force to end the inappropriate use of Clenbuterol, while permitting its therapeutic use when indicated.

For these reasons, the New York Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety requests that the Racing and Wagering Board adjust its proposed emergency rule regarding Clenbuterol to a 14-day withdrawal time to ensure that New York’s rule will not only end the misuse of Clenbuterol at New York racetracks but be consistent with the forthcoming new national rule of the ARCI.

With specific reference to the initial Task Force recommendation for methylprednisolone acetate, we recommended a 15-day withdrawal time in order to discourage use of that particular corticosteroid since it has been shown to have significant unintended negative effects upon cartilage health. This letter is to advise you that the RMTC recently completed that scientific research and convened a special panel of industry experts on November 30, 2012 to draft recommendations to regulate the use of intra-articular

corticosteroids, including triamcinolone acetonide, methylprednisolone acetate and betamethasone based upon that research. That panel of industry experts, consisting of racing chemists, regulatory veterinarians, practicing veterinarians and veterinary surgeons, recommended a 7 day withdrawal time and appropriate thresholds to regulate all three of these medications. This recommendation was approved by the RMTC board and was forwarded to the ARCI for consideration. In their recent meeting, the ARCI approved these recommendations for regulation of the intra-articular use of these corticosteroids.

Based upon the deliberations of the corticosteroid expert panel, the RMTC and the ARCI, and numerous conversations that members of the Task Force have had with Dr. Larry Soma, director of the laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania, the Task Force is convinced that establishing a 7 day withdrawal time for use the intra-articular use of these drugs will accomplish the goals of the Task Force to regulate the use of these medications in a way that will protect the health and welfare of the horse, as well as improve the integrity of racing. For this reason, the Task Force recommends that the initial recommendation to regulate methylprednisolone acetate at 15 days be amended to 7 days. This will accomplish the intent of the Task Force to push intra-articular treatments back beyond the normal entry date and will also position New York to take a lead regarding corticosteroid restrictions in what will be a national effort by the RMTC and the ARCI to create uniform national medication policy in North America.”

[Click here to see the full letter from Dr. Palmer](#)

Timeline of effective dates of emergency rules enacted by the RWB thus far in response to the Task Force on Racehorse Health and Safety’s recommendations:

October 19, 2012 (in effect):

- Voiding a claim for a horse that is vanned off the track, within one hour of the race, at the discretion of the claimant. The existing rule where a claim is voided if a claimed horse dies on the track remains in place. (Rule 4038.5)

December 12, 2012:

- Providing that the claimant of a horse shall be notified, within 48 hours after the claim is finalized, of any intra-articular corticosteroid administrations to the horse within 30 days of the race. (Rule 4038.5)
- Out of competition sampling of Thoroughbred racehorses for corticosteroids, methylprednisolone and Clenbuterol. (Rule 4012.5)

December 26, 2012:

- Providing that the trainer shall maintain accurate records of all corticosteroid joint injections to horses trained by them. The record of every corticosteroid joint injection shall be submitted, in a form and manner approved by the Board, by the Trainer or treating veterinarian to the Board within 48 hours of treatment. (Rule 4043.4(b))–
- Rule prohibiting: (Rule 4043.2)
 - (a) the intra-articular administration of methylprednisolone (DepoMedrol) within seven days of the date of a race

- (b) the administration of all other intra-articular corticosteroids within seven days of the date of a race
- (c) the administration of all systemic corticosteroids within five days of the date of a race
- (d) administration of Clenbuterol to a horse within 14 days of the date of a race.
- Removing Clenbuterol from the 96-hour permissible drug schedule to be in compliance with the above. (Rule 4043.2)
- Removing steroids from permissible 48-hour drug schedule to be in compliance with the above. (Rule 4043.2)

Actual text of today's rule changes:

- **4043.2(i):** In addition, a horse may not race for the following periods of time:
 - (1) for at least five days following a systemic administration of a corticosteroid;
 - (2) for at least seven days following a joint injection of ~~any~~ corticosteroid; and
 - (3) ~~for at least fifteen days following a joint injection of methylprednisolone (e.g., DepoMedrol); and~~
 - (4) for at least ~~twenty one~~ fourteen days following an administration of clenbuterol.

In this regard, substances ingested by a horse shall be deemed administered at the time of eating and drinking. It shall be part of the trainer's responsibility to prevent such ingestion within such time periods.
- **4043.4:** Trainer's responsibility. * * * (b) Trainers shall maintain accurate records of all corticosteroid joint injections to horses trained by them. The record(s) of every corticosteroid joint injection shall be submitted, in a form and manner approved by the Board, by the trainer to the Board within 48 hours of the treatment. The trainer may delegate this responsibility to the treating veterinarian, who shall make these reports when so designated. The reports ~~It~~ shall be accessible to the examining veterinarian for the purpose of assisting with pre-race veterinary examinations.

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