

# New York State Racing and Wagering Board

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## **RACING AND WAGERING BOARD INSTALLS STRICT PROTOCOLS FOR HORSES AND PARTICIPANTS TAKING PART IN JUNE 9 BELMONT STAKES**

*Horses will be stalled in a Belmont stakes barn beginning June 6, subjected to out-of-competition blood testing and be closely monitored to ensure safety and integrity*

The New York State Racing and Wagering Board has put forth a comprehensive protocols for horses running in the June 9 Belmont Stakes in order to ensure the safety of horses and riders, and to ensure that the integrity of the sport is upheld.

“Millions of race fans from around the world will be witnessing a historic spectacle at New York’s beautiful Belmont Park on June 9, and the Racing and Wagering Board will ensure that the race is run in a safe and fair manner,” Racing and Wagering Board Chairman John D. Sabini said. “The protocols put forth here will protect horses, riders and the betting public and underscore the symbolism of the world-class racing held in New York State.”

Beginning Wednesday, June 6, all horses entered in the Belmont Stakes will be required to be stalled in a secured area at Belmont Park, known as a stakes barn. The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) will designate the specific location of the stakes barn and ensure that all entered horses be stalled at the location until the conclusion of the race. Racing and Wagering Board personnel and the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau will assist in security of the Stakes Barn, which will be subjected to scrutinized oversight.

All horses running in the Belmont Stakes, upon arrival at the stakes barn on June 6, will be required to have an out-of-competition blood test, which will be sent to the Board’s Drug Lab that evening for immediate review.

The stakes barn will operate under the following procedures beginning noon, June 6, 2012:

- Limited number of personnel will be permitted to enter, including NYRA and RWB staff, the licensed trainer, licensed assistant trainer, licensed veterinarian, licensed groom, licensed hot walker and licensed owner(s).
- Entry-exit logs: All persons entering the stall, engaged in contact with the horse or performing any service for the horse must be licensed and must also be logged in including the reason(s) for the specific visit or function to be performed. NYRA will maintain the log with Board oversight. Routine stall and horse management by a groom will be monitored but be exempt from separate logging. If a trainer, assistant trainer, vet

or a NYRA vet enters the stall, they should be placed on the log and the reason(s) for the visit noted on the log.

- Administrative searches and checks of all equipment, feed, hay, bales, etc.
- Limited and controlled veterinary access - monitoring of veterinary approach to an entered horse. All veterinarians will be logged in and escorted.
- Guards will be placed at each open doorway or doors will be kept closed with one entry point only.
- NYRA will assign additional security guards to the stakes barn at all times beginning Wednesday, June 6 through the running of the race.
- Thoroughbred Racing Protecting Bureau (TRPB) will provide investigators on Thursday, June 7, remaining on site through the running of the Belmont Stakes.
- No food and beverage for human consumption will be allowed in or around stall space
- Horses will be identified upon arrival and assigned to a specific (numbered) stall
- Lasix administration will take place in designated stalls only by a NYRA veterinarian.
- NYRA will designate a specific press area at the stakes barn.
- From noon, Wednesday, June 6, 2012 and until the race, all vets will provide written notice of intended treatment prior to treatment of the horse. Any changes must be noted.
- From noon, Wednesday, June 6, 2012 and until the race, RWB investigators will monitor all treatments performed by vets and examine all paraphernalia.
- On Friday, June 8, no vets will treat horses without first making an appointment with RWB investigators. On Saturday, June 9, treatment will only be permitted for emergency or by agreement with the Stewards.

While NYRA security will be responsible for logging ingress and egress and monitoring the areas surrounding the stakes barn, RWB investigators will provide surveillance within the stakes barn beginning on Wednesday, June 6 continuously up and to the conclusion of the Belmont Stakes on June 9, as noted above. RWB will have personnel to effectively monitor horses in the stakes barn as well as the other horses on the grounds of Belmont. The stakes barn will only be used for horses that are participating in the actual Belmont Stakes race.

RWB licensing personnel will ensure that all participants at Belmont are properly receipted or licensed. Additionally, safeguards throughout the grounds are being implemented:

- Beginning Monday, June 4, all individuals coming to the backstretch must carry their licenses and valid I.D. with them at all times. Any person without valid licensure will be denied entry to the grounds, unless they are identified visitors accompanied by the licensed person they are visiting.
- All persons living on track premises will be checked for valid licensure prior to Friday, June 1.
- Non-licensee parking within the confines of the backstretch at Belmont will be banned, including those persons who arrive in a licensee vehicle who are not themselves licensed.
- Using the stable area as a walk through path to the clubhouse/grandstand area will be prohibited.
- Stewards will provide all participants a copy of the Board's drug rules.

NYRA will have additional roving security teams during Belmont Stakes day, overseeing the handling and movement of Belmont Stakes horses.

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