



**Gaming  
Commission**



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## **Enhanced Protocols for the Belmont Stakes Festival Include Equine Medical Director & Steward Availability**

The New York State Gaming Commission's Equine Medical Director and all three Stewards will be made available to the media to address any incidents that may occur during races on June 9, Belmont Stakes Day. At the conclusion of the day's races, Equine Medical Director Scott E. Palmer, VMD and the Stewards will be in the Belmont Film Theater after the Belmont Stakes winner's connections press conference to address questions from the media regarding incidents, inquiries, objections or rulings that may occur during any of the day's races. By law, Belmont Park races are observed by three stewards: one employed by the Commission, one employed by The New York Racing Association, Inc. and one employed by The Jockey Club.

Should an on-track incident occur, Dr. Palmer will be available soon after the incident for media briefing in his office which is located immediately adjacent to the press elevator in the basement of the grandstand.

With respect to racing integrity and security, the following protocols will be in effect:

### **Security Protocols for the Belmont Stakes:**

Horses running in the Belmont Stakes are subject to continuous 72-hour "dedicated watch" by experienced security personnel leading to post-time. During a "dedicated watch," one guard is maintained for every horse entered.

### **Security Protocols for the Manhattan Stakes & the Metropolitan Handicap:**

Horses running in the Manhattan Stakes and the Metropolitan Handicap are subject to "intensified watch" by a team of six-to-eight experienced security personnel conducting mobile surveillance and direct horse checks at least three times per shift from 72 to 30 hours prior to their race, with continuous "dedicated watch" taking place for the final 30 hours before post-time.

All guards employed for these protocols consist of experienced NYRA security personnel and investigators who received ongoing education from the Organization of Racing Investigators and the Racing Officials Accreditation Program.

For all horses in the Belmont Stakes, the Manhattan Stakes and the Metropolitan Handicap:

- Horses must be on the grounds of no later than 72 hours prior to their scheduled post-time. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Stewards.

- The Commission will obtain out-of-competition blood samples of horses competing in these races and send them to New York Drug Testing and Research Program at Morrisville State College for testing. The Commission has coordinated with other jurisdictions to obtain out-of-competition samples from horses that not currently stabled in New York.
- Horses must remain on the NYRA facility grounds until after the running of their race. Exceptions will only be granted in the case of an unforeseeable emergency, as determined by the dedicated watch security in consultation with the Stewards.
- Horses shall reside in their trainers' current barns and/or at stalls on the grounds, which shall be monitored at all times by additional security personnel supplemental to those noted above.
- Commission personnel will monitor all treatments of participating horses performed by veterinarians. No veterinarians will be allowed to treat horses without first making an appointment with Commission investigators. 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 within 72 hours prior to the race is required to be provided to the Commission in a timely manner and prior to treatment. The Commission will post these records on its web site daily on Wednesday, June 6, Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8.
- Stall entry/exit logs will be maintained by NYRA security personnel. All persons including grooms, veterinarians, trainers, assistant trainers, farriers, owners or other connections must have a valid Commission license on their person before entering the stall, engaging in contact with the horse or performing any service for the horse. All visits will be logged in by NYRA security along with the reason for the visit. Routine stall maintenance by grooms and stable staff will be monitored but are exempt from logging.
- All equipment, feed, hay bales, etc. are subject to search and seizure by both NYRA and the Commission, as provided by law.
- As is current policy, furosemide will be administered on race day by a NYRA veterinarian and this treatment will be observed by Commission investigators. Syringes will be retained by the Commission for possible testing.
- On race day, no treatments will be permitted (other than furosemide for specifically qualifying horses) unless approved by the Stewards.
- All horses participating in the applicable race must report to the Assembly Barn no less than 45 minutes prior to their designated post-time. Total Carbon Dioxide blood sampling will take place in the Assembly Barn before horses are escorted to the paddock. A fine or a scratch may be issued by the NYRA Steward if horses are late to the Assembly Barn.

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