

Prohibited Substances & Cruelty

Preamble

The purpose of all equestrian events is to match the talents of horses and riders against each other under fair and equal conditions. The Rules have been established to ensure that the normal performance of a horse is not affected, either deliberately or unintentionally, by the influence of drugs and medications.

Fair competition can only be achieved with “drug-free” horses. The welfare of all horses should be of prime importance. Often the interests of a horse are not best served when it is required to compete under the influence of “drugs”. Too often ailments are aggravated and healing prevented, or at best delayed, when a treated horse is forced to compete. Some Events are tests of fitness of a horse and it is most unfair if lack of conditioning of a horse or poor riding techniques is masked by the use of “drugs”.

“Drugs” are considered in various classes rather than as individual substances or products and horse owners are advised to consult their own Veterinary Surgeons to classify drugs that might be used in treatment. It is impractical to list by product name the large number of preparations that may contain the same “drug”.

“Drugs” means any substance capable of affecting the performance or behaviour of a horse by its action upon the central or peripheral nervous system, the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system, the alimentary-digestive system, the musculo-skeletal system, or the urogenital system.

The great majority of the medicaments used in the treatment of equine ailments fall within this definition. Likewise most are scheduled substances, ie. they should be available only on prescription from or dispensed by registered Veterinary Surgeons. There are also a small number of patent horse medicines that contain “drugs” so that owners are warned against using mixtures of unknown composition. Again veterinary advice should be sought.

In order to allow for the “legal” use of “drugs” in the treatment of ailments in the pre-competition period, guidelines stating the recommended withholding periods for various classes of “drugs” have been provided to Veterinary Surgeons. The guidelines may not be totally realistic and it must be emphasised that the onus is at all times on the Competitor to present a horse for Competition without a “drug” detectable in its body. The withholding periods for various classes of “drugs”, and individual “drugs” in some classes is based on studies involving recommended therapeutic doses only and make no allowance for exceptional dosage regimes whether of the “drug” alone or in combination with other “drugs”.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that the withholding periods are issued for guidance only. Please note that no matter by which route - by mouth, by injection, by application as an ointment, etc, a "drug" is administered, the same restriction applies.

The availability to lay persons of many of these potent substances is a cause for concern and may lead to trouble under the Rules for individuals who are inclined for any number of reasons to treat their horses, even sometimes with preparations obtained legally, without first seeking veterinary advice. As a general rule, the use in horses of any "drug" containing preparations in the three (3) days prior to Competition may result in detectable residues in samples taken pre or post the Event. With some "drugs" an even longer withholding period is recommended. Consult with your veterinarian to determine recommended withholding periods. Should a horse be treated within ten (10) days of an event, it is recommended that the rider/owner request a receipt or record of treatment for the horse for consideration in the case of an adverse swabbing result.

Phenylbutazone (not permissible) is sold under a variety of trade names and is available as powders or tablets for feeding or dosing by mouth, as solutions for intramuscular or intra-venous injection, or as ointments, alone or in combination with other "drugs" for topical application. Topical use of products can and do produce detectable blood and urine levels of prohibited substances. Recommended withholding periods need to be observed. Horses taking part in a Competition must be healthy and compete on their inherent merits. The use of any prohibited substance can influence a horse's performance, mask a state of ill health and, therefore, falsify results in the Competition itself and in the inference to be drawn on the genetic potential of the horse and of its lineage.

35. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES (COMPETITORS)

- 35.1 Competitors may not take part in any Event while under the influence of any stimulating or calming drugs in any shape or form.

36. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES (HORSES)

- 36.1. Any substance is a "prohibited substance" if it contains an ingredient that is a stimulant, depressant, tranquilliser, local anaesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behaviour altering) substance, or drug which might affect the performance of the horse and might interfere with the prohibited substance testing process.
- 36.2. Horses must not compete under the influence of a prohibited substance and if they have required treatment in the pre-Event period then treatment should cease at such time that drug residues are no longer detectable at the time of Competition.
- 36.3. **Swabbing of horses** may be undertaken at any event at any time at the discretion of the HRC AV, following protocols outline in Appendix 10. Any competitor who refuses to allow his/her horse to be swabbed will be subject to an immediate 12 month suspension of membership.
- a) All costs associated with the swabbing process and testing of the A sample are to be borne by the HRC AV.
 - b) The owner/rider shall be informed in writing of the results of the A sample test.

- c) Should the owner/rider dispute an A sample tests result, they may request that the B sample be tested at their expense. Should the B sample test fail to provide conclusive proof that the horse had prohibited substances in its system on the day of the event, the cost of the B sample test shall be refunded by the HRCav.

Owners/riders of a horse found to have a prohibited substance in any of its tissues, body fluids or excreta at an event as the result of a medication test, shall be subject to disciplinary action under the Complaint Handling rules.

36.4. Prohibited substances as defined above are:

- a) substances capable at any time of acting directly or indirectly on one or more of the following mammalian body systems:

- Central and/or peripheral nervous systems,
- Cardiovascular system,
- Respiratory system,
- Alimentary digestive system,
- Musculo-skeletal system,
- Uro-genital system,
- Endocrine system and

- b) falling within the following categories of substances:

- Acidifying agents,
- Adrenergic blocking agents,
- Adrenergic stimulants,
- Alkalinising agents,
- Anabolic agents,
- Analgesics,
- Antiangina agents,
- Antiarrhythmic agents,
- Anticholinergic agents,
- Anticoagulants,
- Antidepressants,
- Antihistamines,
- Antihypertensives,
- Anti-inflammatory agents,
- Blood coagulants,
- Bronchodilators,
- Bronchospasm relaxants,

- Buffering agents,
- Central nervous system stimulants,
- Cholinergic agents,
- Corticosteroids,
- Depressants,
- Diuretics,
- General anaesthetics,
- Haematopoietic agents,
- Hormones (including trophic hormones) and their synthetic counterparts,
- Hypnotics,
- Local anaesthetics,
- Muscle relaxants,
- Narcotic analgesics,
- Neuromuscular agents,
- Plasma volume expanders,
- Respiratory stimulants,
- Sedatives,
- Tranquillisers,
- Vasodilators,
- Vitamins administered by injection

c) Any other substance declared by the HRC AV from time to time and notified to members to be a prohibited substance.

36.5. Herbal or natural medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes, powders and products of any kind should be used with caution as they might contain a prohibited substance

37. PERMITTED SUBSTANCES

37.1. The substances listed below are exempt from rule 36.3:

- Antimicrobials (antibiotics) and other anti-infective agents but not including procaine penicillin.
- Antiparasitics approved and registered for use in horses.
- Ranitidine.
- Omeprazole.
- Ambroxol.
- Bromhexine.

- Dembrexine.
- Registered vaccines against infectious agents.
- Glucosamine.
- Chondroitin sulphate.
- Altrenogest when administered to fillies and mares orally.
- Cyclosporin eye drops for horses with chronic uveitis

37.2. Use of therapeutic or commonly used equine medication for horses with documented medical conditions is allowed with prior written permission of the HRCAV. Applications shall be considered on a case by case basis taking into consideration the potential to effect performance and the potential welfare risk to the horse.

37.3. The following prohibited substances, when present at or below the concentrations respectively set out, are exempt from the provisions of rule 36.3. .

- Alkalinising agents, when evidenced by total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) at a concentration of 36.0 millimoles per litre in plasma.
- Arsenic at a mass concentration of 0.30 milligrams per litre in urine.
- Dimethyl sulphoxide at a mass concentration of 15 milligrams per litre in urine or 1.0 milligrams per litre in plasma.
- In male horses other than geldings, free and glucuroconjugated 5 α -estrane-3 β , 17 α -diol at a mass concentration of 45 micrograms per litre in urine when, at the screening stage, the free and glucuroconjugated 5 α -estrane-3 β , 17 α -diol exceeds the free and glucuroconjugated 5,10 estrene-3 β ,17 α diol in the urine.
- Salicylic acid at a mass concentration of 750 milligrams per litre in urine or 6.5 milligrams per litre in plasma.
- Hydrocortisone at a mass concentration of 1.00 milligrams per litre in urine;
- Testosterone:
 - (a) in geldings: free testosterone and testosterone liberated from its conjugates at a mass concentration of 20 micrograms per litre in urine;
 - (b) in fillies and mares: free testosterone and testosterone liberated from its conjugates at a mass concentration of 55 micrograms per litre in urine;
 - (c) in geldings, fillies and mares: free testosterone at a mass concentration of 100 picograms per millilitre in plasma;
 - (d) in pregnant fillies and mares : free testosterone and testosterone liberated from its conjugates at any concentration in urine, or free testosterone at any concentration in plasma.

- 3-Methoxytyramine (including both free 3-methoxytyramine and 3-methoxytyramine liberated from its conjugates) at a mass concentration of 4.0 milligrams per litre in urine.
- Boldenone in male horses other than geldings (including both free boldenone and boldenone liberated from its conjugates) at a mass concentration of 15 micrograms per litre in urine.
- Theobromine at a mass concentration of 2.00 milligrams per litre in urine.
- Cobalt at a mass concentration of 100 micrograms per litre in urine or 25 micrograms per litre in plasma.
- Prednisolone (free prednisolone) at a mass concentration of 10 micrograms per litre in urine.
- Any other substance declared by the HRCAV from time to time to be exempt.

37.4. **Emergency treatment requirements.** Administration of a prohibited substance at an HRCAV event is permitted by a registered veterinarian called to treat an injury or ailment occurring at the venue. The horse must be withdrawn from further participation at the event and a Treatment Form (E11) submitted to the Event Secretary on the day of the event.

