

**THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS
AUGUST 17, 2008**

Recommendation: Equine Injury Database

The Jockey Club Technology Services Inc. and InCompass Solutions Inc. have developed the Equine Injury Database system that will provide the racing industry with a national database of racing injuries. Originally put forth at the 2006 Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit the primary objectives of the Equine Injury Database are to:

- identify the frequency, types and outcome of racing injuries using a standardized format that will generate valid statistics
- identify markers for horses at increased risk of injury
- serve as a data source for research directed at improving safety and preventing injuries

The Thoroughbred Safety Committee was encouraged by the interest, support and participation received from 48 racetracks during the 2007-2008 pilot project phase of this program.

Now that this system is fully operational, the Thoroughbred Safety Committee enthusiastically recommends an immediate and expanded level of support and participation from all racetracks, state racing authorities, horsemen and veterinarians to join together in the necessary reporting of racehorse injuries to the Equine Injury Database.

In an effort to expedite this process, the Thoroughbred Safety Committee requests that the RCI Model Rules Committee, the RCI Board of Directors and all state and provincial racing commissions institute the following model rules requiring all racing associations, training facilities and individual licensees to participate in a commission approved injury reporting database.

Recommended Injury Reporting Model Rules:

“As a condition of the granting of a license to conduct racing and the granting of race dates under ARCI-002-050, the racetrack association in cooperation with the official veterinarian agrees to collect and report, as defined by the AAEP Regulatory Veterinarians Committee, all injuries to or the unsoundness of an entered horse prior to, during and after the running of the race. The reporting shall be done on a nationally accepted equine injury report form approved by the commission which shall be entered into a national equine injury database approved by the commission. The racetrack association shall establish procedures to insure that all licensed trainers, jockeys, exercise riders, veterinarians, farriers, grooms or other horse handlers report all injuries or

unsoundness of a horse that occurs on the grounds of the racetrack association during training, stabling or any other situation.”

“As a condition of the granting of a license as a training facility recognized for the recording of official workouts, the training facility shall establish procedures to insure that all licensed trainers, jockeys, exercise riders, veterinarians, farriers, grooms or other horse handlers shall report to the official veterinarian all injuries or unsoundness of a horse on the grounds of the training facility during training, stabling or any other situation.”

“As a condition of licensing as a trainer, jockey, exercise rider, farrier, groom, veterinarian or other horse handler, the licensee shall report to the official veterinarian all injuries or unsoundness of a horse on the grounds of the training facility during training, stabling or any other situation.”

Finally, as an adjunct to the implementation of the Equine Injury Database system, the Thoroughbred Safety Committee strongly recommends that American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) work with racetrack practitioners, regulatory veterinarians and equine veterinary surgeons to develop standardized protocols and procedures for pre-race, post-race and post-mortem examinations. Included in the post-race and post-mortem examination protocols for injured horses, euthanized or dead horses should be the immediate collection of urine, blood, hair and/or tissue samples for laboratory analysis. In addition, the Thoroughbred Safety Committee strongly recommends that all racetrack and state or provincial racing commissions require and fund pre-race and post-race examinations; and post-mortem examinations for all horses that die on the grounds of a licensed racetrack or training center.