THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
August 12, 2018

<u>Recommendation:</u> **Recording in the Equine Injury Database of all training fatalities in addition to horses observed lame by an official veterinarian during training hours.**

The Equine Injury Database (EID) was created to facilitate critical analysis of data to identify factors associated with increased risk of injury on racing surfaces. Analysis of data related to injuries sustained during racing that are statistically associated with fatality within 72 hours of the race has led to the development of risk factor profiles for Thoroughbred racehorses. Currently, 97% of flat racing and all steeplechase races record racing fatality data and many submit non-fatal race injury and pre-race scratch data as well. The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee applauds the diligent work by the regulatory veterinarians, racetracks, associations, and regulatory authorities for all their efforts contributing to the success of the EID.

Risk factors that include racing and training activities leading up to the injury factor heavily when identifying horses at an increased risk for injury. Based upon testimony from epidemiologists, regulatory veterinarians, and other experts, more information regarding horses observed lame is needed to enhance the understanding of factors that are associated with an increased risk of racing fatality. In addition to continued diligence to collect data regarding racing fatalities, these data sources should include reporting and enhanced follow-up on horses observed lame during racing and training as well as fatalities occurring during training hours, scratches due to soundness issues reported during pre-race inspections, observed workouts for purposes of removal from official veterinarians' lists for soundness issues, and relevant veterinary diagnoses and treatments.

Experts agree that these details will lead to the development of a more robust assessment of the health profile of the equine athlete and greatly assist trainers, owners, veterinarians, and regulators in managing those factors contributing to increased risk of equine and potential human injury.

Understanding the importance of collecting and analyzing data in order to provide industry stakeholders with the tools needed to successfully manage factors associated with increased risk to horses and to assist in the development of strategies to continually improve racing's safety record, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee calls for:

> "All licensed racing and training facilities to include monitoring and recording information in the EID concerning fatalities and horses observed lame by an official veterinarian during training hours in addition to recording relevant information related to soundness issues of the horse."