

**THE JOCKEY CLUB  
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION  
August 11, 2022**

**Recommendation: Out-of-Competition Testing to Assist Racing Officials in Ensuring the Integrity of Veterinary Treatment and Procedure Records Disclosed to Relevant Regulatory Authorities**

The Thoroughbred Safety Committee commends the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) in its requirement under rule 2251 to fully disclose the details of veterinary medical treatments and procedures to race horses via a designated electronic database. Electronic databases facilitate the rapid analysis and identification of trends in medication usage that may signal when horses should be subjected to closer scrutiny for potential fitness or soundness issues that may pose risks to the health and safety of the horse and rider.

Based upon discussions with officials in national and international racing jurisdictions, random collection of samples between starts provides additional benefits to the integrity of the sport beyond the detection of prohibited substances. Reviewing medications present in samples collected out-of-competition in the context of veterinary treatment history, race starts and workouts may signal to regulatory officials the existence of latent medical conditions needing closer attention.

Regulatory officials have reported the successful use of out-of-competition testing to identify trends that may indicate the chronic use of medication and other circumstances indicating the need for better regulation.

Out-of-competition testing is also a reliable means to ensure the integrity of medications disclosures for regulatory purposes.

The discovery of unreported medication usage in race horses should immediately trigger close scrutiny to understand the discrepancy and determine if any latent medical conditions are present. Latent medical conditions potentially masked by unreported medications are serious risks to the health and integrity of the athletes and the sport. If the medication was intentionally unreported to obscure a health condition, such horses may require further clinical evaluation and possible suspension from competition to allow healing.

To ensure veracity in the disclosure of medication and other relevant medical treatments in race horses, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee calls for:

“All Thoroughbred pari-mutuel racing regulatory authorities sanction responsible parties whenever an investigation determines that samples collected out-of-competition contain undisclosed medications. Analytical results that materially differ from treatment records should be immediately investigated to determine if undisclosed treatments are potentially masking health issues that may compromise the health, safety and welfare of the race horse. If undisclosed veterinary treatments or procedures are determined, possible sanctions should extend to the responsible parties in addition to pausing competition or training of the affected horse(s) as medically necessary.”

Sanctions should include a scale of suspensions of increasing duration for multiple violations and fines for those parties responsible for disclosure of veterinary records to regulatory authorities.