

**THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
March 27, 2019**

Recommendation: Establishing an Equine Medical Professional Resource

Equine medical directors are a vital component in the regulation of Thoroughbred horse racing. The equine medical director oversees drug testing programs and safety initiatives such as pre-race inspections, reviews necropsy results, maintains various databases to support critical decision-making including injuries and medical treatments administered to the horse, ensures proper administration of sampling procedures, and manages the regulatory veterinarians employed by the jurisdiction.

The equine medical director also acts as a liaison and spokesperson on all matters relating to equine health, welfare, and safety and serves as an information resource to licensees. Currently there are nine states and one racetrack operator that employ a full-time equine medical director. Racing jurisdictions that employ full-time medical directors are among the most progressive when managing regulatory activities to ensure the horse is first and foremost, central in any decision-making.

To further enhance regulatory oversight and promote the health, safety, and welfare of equine athletes in race training, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee calls for:

“All jurisdictions to employ a full-time equine medical director responsible for enhancing racing’s safety record through development and execution of safety planning and injury mitigation strategies, ensuring mission-critical databases of safety information are maintained and liaising with stakeholders as an information resource. Racing jurisdictions that do not have adequate budget resources should consider sharing resources as calendars and race schedules permit.”