

**THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
May 12, 2020**

Recommendation: Mandatory stand-down period for horses in the care of trainers determined to be in possession of or evidencing the intent to administer illegal substances to racehorses

On March 9, 2020, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York working with the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York City Police Department, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in New York announced the indictments charging 27 individuals with offenses relating to the administration of illegal performance-enhancing drugs to racehorses that had raced in the United States and within international racing jurisdictions.

Given the uncertain effects and duration and potential health risks these substances can pose to the racehorse, there is a growing and understandable concern regarding the grave dangers these substances might visit upon horses in competition, including heightened risk of injury and/or death.

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee recommends:

“Subject to procedures for making such determinations, any affected Thoroughbred in the care or custody of a trainer or other person determined to be in possession of or evidencing the intent to administer any drug or substance that has not been approved for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration or considered by the Association of Racing Commissioners International as a Penalty Category ‘A’ substance shall not be allowed to race for a minimum of 180 days. These horses should be subject to frequent veterinary and regulatory oversight during the period of suspension. Such Thoroughbreds shall be allowed to return to racing only after the horse demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the official veterinarian or the racing veterinarian, that it is sound and in fit physical condition to exert its best effort in a race by performing satisfactorily in a workout after the 180-day stand-down period has expired. Additionally, a blood, urine, and/or other biological test sample taken after such workout shall be free of all prohibited substances before the horse will be allowed to return to racing.”

The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee believes that substances illegally administered to racehorses are not well understood and pose an unacceptable risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the horse, rider, and other horses that may be engaged in physical activity in close proximity. There should be zero tolerance for these behaviors with the responsible parties subject to penalties including permanent removal from the sport. The horses that are the subjects of these illegal practices should be afforded ample time to rest and recover and to allow thorough examination and professional assessment for the lingering effects of such practices.