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RMTC Recommends New Policy at March Board Meeting

At their board meeting held on March 25 in Austin, Texas, RMTC directors, in consultation with the RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee, unanimously adopted several policy recommendations, which were forwarded to regulators, horsemen and veterinarians.

The recommendations are as follows:

- When a state racing commission implements the RMTC and RCI Androgenic Anabolic Steroid Model Rule, there should be a 90-day grace period before the penalty enforcement begins; subsequent penalties should be in accord with the RMTC and RCI Uniform Model Penalties. The trainer and owner should be notified if there is an anabolic steroid overage during the 90-day grace period.
- The androgenic anabolic steroids (AAS) boldenone, nandrolone, stanozolol and testosterone shall not be administered within 30 days prior to a race.

- One of those four anabolic steroids may be administered more than 30 days prior to the race only if all of the following conditions are met:
 - the anabolic steroid is administered by a licensed veterinarian in connection with the diagnosis of illness or injury



in the horse for which the steroid is necessary.

—the veterinarian must complete a treatment report and file the report with the appropriate regulatory designee within 24 hours of the treatment.

—the horse must test below the stated model rule threshold concentration prior to being allowed to enter to race.

- Only licensed veterinarians may possess the above

anabolic steroids and administer them to racehorses. They shall not be dispensed for administration by personnel associated with the horse.

- Claimed horses may be tested for the presence of anabolic steroids at the request of the claimant and results shall be reported to the regulatory body. Upon a positive test, the claim may be voided at the option of the claimant, and testing costs shall be borne by the original owner. If the test is negative, the claimant shall reimburse the regulatory body for the costs of testing.
- Withdrawal times are variable and nothing in this policy should be interpreted as condoning the use of anabolic and androgenic steroids in horses intended to race.

Essentially, this policy prohibits the use of all anabolic steroids within 30 days of a race and establishes strict requirements for the administration of the four permitted anabolic steroids.

Impact of RMTC Recommended Policy:

"I believe the use of anabolic steroids will be substantially reduced, which is what all of us are trying to accomplish. We've added a little more specificity to the model rule... Our goal is to keep this on the front burner."

-RMTC Chairman Dr. Robert Lewis

"The ongoing process of implementing regulation of steroids (has) turned an important corner."

-Tom LaMarra, The Blood-Horse

“The RMTC provides a credible, scientifically based, industry-led forum for addressing the multitude of drug and medication issues presented by modern day veterinary medicine.”
-Alex Waldrop to the House Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee

Alex Waldrop Testifies on Behalf of the Racing Community

As America's sports industries face heavy scrutiny from both the federal government and the public, RMTC's dedicated leaders have made a strong effort to proactively tackle medication issues that threaten racing's integrity and its future as a state-regulated sport.

Racing is vulnerable to federal intervention in that the Interstate Horseracing Act, which governs simulcasting, is federal legislation and is under the purview of the House Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee. On Feb. 27, Alex Waldrop, president and CEO of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, appeared before this subcommittee for a hearing titled "Drugs in Sports: Compromising the Health of Athletes and Undermining the Integrity of Competition." In Waldrop's testimony, he noted the effectiveness of collaborative efforts between the RMTC and the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI). Much of RMTC's recent work with RCI has been focused on the regulation of anabolic steroids and the adoption of uniform penalties – two key areas in which federal government representatives have shown concern.

During the hearing, Representative Ed Whitfield from Kentucky asked Waldrop

whether it would be "unreasonable" for the committee to use the Interstate Horse Racing Act to impose restrictions on simulcast wagering in states that were slow to adopt model rules by a "date certain." Whitfield's questioning makes it clear that the threat of federal intervention is definitely real and could endanger the fragile economics on which racing currently survives. That possibility of intervention should provide everyone in the industry the incentive to help push the adoption of the model rules. Currently, 32 of 38 pari-mutuel racing states have adopted the model rules or are in the process of adoption.

"It is critical that we create uniformity across state jurisdictions," said RMTC CEO Dan Fick. "As more people within the industry start to realize the potential of federal intervention on medication in racing, that realization may prove to be the impetus to move many states to adoption of the model rules sooner rather than later."

As Waldrop described in his testimony, the RMTC and RCI model rule process is one that "delivers racing the necessary independent oversight while also giving the industry a real say in the way in which it is being regulated."



RMTC Sponsors Androgenic Anabolic Steroids Workshop

RMTC sponsored an equine racing chemist workshop on the detection of androgenic anabolic steroids (AAS) in the racehorse, held at the University of California at Davis Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory from April 27-30.

Analysts representing seven international laboratories and 16 of the official 18 U.S. laboratories participated in the workshop, organized by Dr. Scott Stanley from UC-Davis and Dr. Richard Sams from the University of Florida.

Kicking off the three-day event was a presentation by Dr. Scot Waterman on the AAS model rule and the challenges involved in regulating anabolics. Participants also witnessed analysts performing state-of-the-art doping control approaches needed to regulate anabolic steroids, and were given copies of standard operating procedures as well as the latest scientific information for detecting and

identifying AAS in horses.

Keynote speakers were Dr. Don Catlin, director of the Anti-Doping Research Institute and former director of the UCLA Olympic Laboratory, and Dr. Ed Houghton, one of the world's foremost experts in anabolic steroid testing in the racehorse. Other speakers included Dr. Lawrence Soma from the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center and Dr. Rick Arthur of the California Horse Racing Board.

"This is an unprecedented situation where we have a new model rule coming forward and the laboratories working on uniform testing at the same time," said Dr. Stanley. "This meets two of RMTC's primary goals regarding uniform testing and model rule implementation. The bottom line is that you cannot have model rules without uniform testing."

The RMTC will continue to look for opportunities to sponsor workshops like these.

“The response to the AAS workshop by the U.S. and international racing chemists was amazing.”
-Dr Scot Waterman

Dr. Waterman on BloodHorse.com's Talkin' Horses

Lexington, KY:

Do you as a veterinarian feel that there is a legitimate therapeutic uses for anabolic steroids in horses?

Waterman:

There are anabolic steroids that are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use in horses so the answer to the generic question is yes, there are legitimate therapeutic uses for anabolic steroids in horses. The RMTC board, however, does not feel there is a legitimate therapeutic use for an anabolic steroid in a horse that is race fit and within 30 to 45 days of a race.



Chicago, IL:

What is the leading opposition in uniting and coordinating your efforts? How do you plan to overcome them and unite such a niche focused industry?

Waterman:

The primary opposition has come from some horsemen and veterinarians who believe that race day therapeutic medications are necessary in today's demanding year-around racing schedule. I think this opposition is on the decline as many horsemen realize that the RMTC is their best opportunity to get uniform regulation with more accurate withdrawal times for the therapeutic medications. The crucial issue we must overcome, however, is adoption of uniform model rules and penalty guidelines in 38 pari-mutuel states. The Association of Racing Commissioners International has been very supportive in urging the individual states to speed up and stay uniform in their individual state adoption processes. We need more support from owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys, track management, vets, bettors and racing's fan base to locally encourage their state racing commission to pass the RMTC recommended model rules and guidelines.

La Jolla, CA:

Are we ready to defend our results if we come up with a positive for a banned anabolic steroid?

Waterman:

Frankly, you never know the answer to this question until you are in court, but given the 30-plus year history of science and testing for these drugs in the rest of the racing world I suspect the states will be able to mount a sufficient prosecution.

Aurora, CO:

How will the new steroid restrictions affect field size in the short and long term?

Waterman:

I don't think you will see any change at all in the short-term. Long-term I'm hopeful, though I have no scientific data to support this, that we will lengthen some horse's careers by regulating these drugs. These are finely tuned animals and logic would tell you that if you increase muscle mass beyond what nature intended you might put abnormal stress on soft tissue and possibly even bone. It may be an unfair analogy but take a look at how many of the baseball players that were widely suspected of using anabolic steroids wound up on the disabled list multiple times.

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STRENGTHENING THE INTEGRITY OF RACING

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More than 800 drug
substances can be
detected by the Ken
Maddy Laboratory at
UC-Davis

Pennsylvania's
Horse and Harness
Racing
Commission
tested 2,061
horses raced over
a two-month
period that ended
February 22 and
found 98.8% were
negative for
anabolic steroids.

In the first week of
testing at Hoosier
Park's harness meet,
which began April 5,
there were no positive
tests in the roughly 20
horses — two per race
— randomly tested
daily.

Our Mission

The RMTC strives to develop, promote and coordinate, at the national level, policies, research and educational programs that seek to ensure the fairness and integrity of racing and the health and welfare of racehorses and participants, and to protect the interests of the racing public.



Industry News

CHRB Board Adopts Revised Penalty Guidelines

During their meeting in late March, the California Horse Racing Board revised the language of regulations previously adopted to establish strict penalty guidelines for medication violations and related drug classifications for all licensees. The revisions were made in an effort to address industry concerns and comply with recommendations of the Office of Administrative Law, which reviews regulatory changes for all state agencies.

"I believe we are making a huge stride forward," said CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro. Shapiro believes that the considerable fines and/or penalties set by the guidelines should "make a positive difference and help the game."

The regulations outline five drug classifications and four penalty categories. Penalty categories are based on the therapeutic value of the substance, potential for environmental and dietary contamination, appropriate usage and ability to influence the outcome of a race.

For details on the revised penalty guidelines, please visit: <http://www.chrb.ca.gov>.

Expanded Racing Commission Test Protocols Lead to Detection of Blood Doping in Six New Jersey Race Horses

The New Jersey Racing Commission's new "out-of-competition" testing initiative, implemented in late 2007, recently led to a racing commission investigation that resulted in erythropoietin-human (EPO) drug positives for six harness horses. The horses, trained by Ernest Adam and owned by Stephen Slender, DVM, were tested while boarding at Winner's International Farm in Chesterfield, N.J. Before the expanded test protocols, the commission was only authorized to test horses at the racetrack on race day.

The new protocols were created in an effort to detect the use of performance-enhancing substances such as EPO in racehorses. EPO artificially increases red blood cells and hemoglobin, which can enhance oxygen intake during a race. The drug is not intended for use in the horse and carries the risk of heart attack and stroke. A hearing will be held to determine whether Adam and Slender violated commission rules. Such a violation could result in a 10-year license suspension and \$50,000 fine.

All six horses that tested positive for EPO are now ineligible to race in New Jersey, according to regulations.

Indiana Extends Steroids Grace Period

To be consistent with RMTC's new policy recommendations, the Indiana Horse Racing Commission on May 12 voted to extend the grace period starting April 25 for anabolic steroid positives at Hoosier Park and Indiana Downs from 45 days to 90 days. As a result, horses racing at Indiana Downs' current meet will race without penalties for a positive test for steroids. When the grace period is over however, horsemen who violate Indiana's steroid policy will be fined and required to forfeit the purse.

CHRB Issues Steroid Advisory

The California Horse Racing Board adopted threshold levels for testosterone, nandrolone, boldenone and stanozolol, which must be reviewed by the state's administrative law office. These therapeutics will be regulated starting May 31, 2008, under the same CHRB rule that regulates clenbuterol and several other drugs with specified threshold levels. However, changes will not go into effect until July 1, 2008, when the UC Davis Maddy Laboratory begins testing routine samples for anabolic steroids.

"It's the first step in regulating anabolic steroids in California horse racing," said California Equine Medical Director Dr. Rick Arthur. "This is the most important action the board will take on medications this year." Withdrawal time studies on these four anabolic steroids are close to completion. For now, horsemen will be sent a letter of warning for any overages of these medications. Pre-entry screening for anabolic steroids will be offered in California through 2008. The state plans to host the first steroid-free Breeders' Cup on Oct. 24-25 at Santa Anita Park.

CHRB's anabolic steroid regulations are modified from RMTC recommendations for testing in urine, approved by the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

To see proposed changes to the current regulation, please visit: <http://www.chrb.ca.gov>.