

## **BHA Notices Section**

### **Administration of Levamisole/Tetramisole to horses in training**

Levamisole and Tetramisole are sold as wormers for farm livestock, and are almost identical substances sharing the same molecular make-up but differing in their three-dimensional orientation. They are not licensed for use in horses but the British Horseracing Authority is aware that they are being given to horses in training with and without veterinary advice, primarily as 'immune stimulants' or 'pick-me-ups'. Since these have been shown to have an effect on the immune system (in other species), Levamisole and Tetramisole are prohibited substances. Since 1999 these drugs have been found in horses tested on racedays, resulting in disqualifications and fines.

In addition, the Authority is, in some of the more recent cases, also finding the substance Pemoline. This is a drug that stimulates the brain, has historically been used for treatment of serious psychological disorders in people and has been shown to have a specific performance enhancing effect in horses (similar to that seen with Amphetamine). Pemoline was withdrawn from the market as a human drug due to it being linked with liver toxicity.

Finding Levamisole/Tetramisole in racehorses is itself of concern, but finding such a significant performance enhancing drug as Pemoline in racehorses is of great concern. The Authority has investigated the reason for these coincidental findings of Pemoline with Levamisole and Tetramisole. Studies at HFL, have demonstrated a mechanism by which Pemoline is produced in horse liver cells following exposure of these cells to a metabolite of Levamisole and Tetramisole. We therefore believe that the probable source of Pemoline found coincidentally with Levamisole and Tetramisole is from the metabolism in the horse of these two latter drugs.

In view of the association of Pemoline with the administration of Levamisole/Tetramisole we have reviewed the available scientific literature for evidence for the rationale use of Levamisole and Tetramisole in horses. Although Levamisole and Tetramisole have been shown to improve immune function in the laboratory, and under certain conditions in other species, we have not found any material evidence base for the rationale use of Levamisole and Tetramisole in horses for immune modulation (we are of course happy to be advised to the contrary). We would add that there are alternative licensed wormers available for use in the horse and that the drug safety of Levamisole, Tetramisole and Pemoline is not well characterised in horses.

The Rules of Racing state that every treatment must be fully justifiable by the medical condition of the horse receiving the treatment. Given this requirement, the lack of evidence for the rationale use of Levamisole/Tetramisole in horses for immune stimulation, and the likely association between use of Levamisole/Tetramisole in horses and the presence of Pemoline, we wish to issue clear advice to Trainers and their veterinary surgeons.

The Authority's position on this matter is therefore that as there is no material evidence base for the rationale use of Levamisole and Tetramisole in horses for immune modulation, and use of these drugs is associated with the finding of Pemoline, which is known to enhance performance, the Authority strongly advises against the use of Levamisole/Tetramisole in horses in training. Any such use is advised to be under veterinary supervision, following a relevant diagnosis, and should include an extensive withdrawal period. If Pemoline is found in horses, whether related to the use of Levamisole/Tetramisole or not, the Authority will regard this as a serious finding because Pemoline has been shown to have clear performance enhancing effects.

### **Anti-Ulcer Medication in horses - Use of**

The Equine Science and Welfare Department of the British Horseracing Authority would like to draw the attention of Trainers to an important issue relating to anti-ulcer medication - in particular, ranitidine. Complementary information with added veterinary detail has also been made available to veterinary surgeons.

Through on going screening at HFL, and a number of positive tests post race, we are aware that Trainers, advised by their veterinary surgeons, are using ranitidine to prevent and treat gastric ulcers syndrome in their horses (it may be called as such in generic preparation, or by its trade name, for example 'Zantac'). This drug is a preparation for treatment of humans - it is neither intended nor licensed for horses in Great Britain. Whilst veterinary surgeons can prescribe drugs intended for use in other species where there is no alternative, in this case there are other preparations available as licensed horse medicines which make the use of ranitidine subject to the need for justification and veterinary surgeons must obtain written consent from the Trainer to use ranitidine. Importantly the Authority has published a Detection Time for a licensed veterinary medication containing the anti-ulcer drug omeprazole, and details can be found on the Authority's website. Non-medical approaches to managing gastric ulcers in horses should also be borne in mind.

There is very little available information about excretion time of ranitidine in horses; what there is indicates that

under certain circumstances it can be detected for at least 18 days in urine and probably considerably longer. On top of this lack of information, the problem of trying to understand how it is handled by the horse is particularly difficult because:

1. It is usually given by mouth (tablets, paste or syrup) which, particularly with the horses' complex digestive system, results in very variable metabolism.
2. In using human tablets etc, they are given 'word of mouth' doses and in very variable forms, e.g. being broken up and mixed with water and given by syringe, which makes absorption and subsequent metabolism and excretion even harder to predict.

In the light of this it is recommended that extreme care is exercised in any use of ranitidine in horses in training; as with any prohibited substance, ranitidine must not be detectable on raceday.

If Trainers are in any doubt as to whether a horse is clear to race, they are invited to contact Tim Morris (Director of Equine Science and Welfare) or Lynn Hillyer (Veterinary Advisor) on 0207 152 0090 for advice and/or possible facility for Elective Testing.

## **Anti-Viral Drug Amantidine - Use of**

In the context of the Authority's approach to the detection of the use of anti-infective drugs (see BHA Notice 'Detection of the Use of Anti-infective Drugs') it would specifically draw Trainers' attention to the use of the anti-viral drug amantidine. The Authority is aware that amantidine is being used in horses.

Whilst scientific studies have been published referring to its possible activity against the equine influenza virus, all horses racing in Great Britain must be vaccinated against equine influenza. Any use of amantidine would be in the context of treatment of a significant viral disease, and it would be expected that a horse under treatment, and for a time after treatment, must be isolated to protect other horses.

In humans, amantidine has been used to treat diseases of the brain. In horses the use of amantidine does result in seizures in some cases and it may have other effects on the horse's central nervous system, and so could place horse and jockey at risk.

Any use of amantidine as an anti-viral drug is therefore advised to be under veterinary supervision, following a relevant diagnosis, and should include an extensive withdrawal period and include measures to protect other horses. The Authority notifies Trainers that with respect to amantidine it must not be present in horses on a raceday and that the approach of not reporting anti-infective drugs will not be taken with amantidine, which has other effects, and its use will be regarded as for the use of a prohibited substance.

## **Auction Races**

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The following guidelines have been drawn up to ensure that the qualification of horses for these races is clear.

The definition of a Maiden Auction race is "a flat race restricted to two year old or to three year old Maiden horses which have been sold or bought in by public auction under the hammer at specified sales".

The definition of a Novice Auction race is "a flat race restricted to two years old horses which have not won a Flat race classified above Class 4 in Schedule (F)2, other than those races which are treated as Class 4 in the conditions of the race, and which have not won more than two races of any class, and which have been sold or bought in by public auction under the hammer at specified sales".

For the avoidance of doubt horses which are unsold having failed to reach their reserves do not qualify, nor do private sales.

(i) The "specified sales" referred to above for these races in 2015 comprise the following:-

a) Those yearling sales administered by Arqana (France), Baden-Badener Auktionsgesellschaft (BBAG) (Germany), Brightwells Ltd. (G.B.), Doncaster Bloodstock Sales Ltd (G.B.), Fasig-Tipton Co. Inc. (U.S.A.), Goffs Bloodstock Sales Ltd. (Ireland), Goresbridge Horse Sales Ltd. (Ireland), Keeneland Association Inc. (U.S.A.), Ocala Breeders Sales Co. Inc. (U.S.A.), Osarus Vente (France), Societa Gestione Aste (SGA) (Italy), Tattersalls Ltd. (G.B.), Tattersalls (Ireland) Ltd. (Ireland).

b) As two years old at any sales administered by the above mentioned sales companies, up to and including May 31st, 2015 or, for the races where the closing date is before June 1st, up to and including the day prior to the closing date of the race.

c) As three years old at any sales administered by the above mentioned sales companies, up to and including the day prior to the closing date of the race.

ii) The last sale will govern the price if the horse is sold more than once, up to and including the relevant qualifying date as stated above.

(N.B. A differential sales price will be applied for qualification purposes for those horses sold as yearlings prior to July 1st of the relevant year. Please refer to the individual race conditions for details).

iii) A horse will only be considered as having been sold by public auction (under the hammer) if that sale is subsequently published, or notified in writing to the Racing Calendar Office, by the Sales Company. The auction price used will be the first published /notified sales price from the relevant auction, unless notification is subsequently received from the Sales company indicating that, for a reason acceptable to the British Horseracing Authority, a different Sales price should be used. An amended Sales price will only be used to calculate a horse's weight in an Auction race if such notification has been received by the Racing Calendar Office and accepted by the British Horseracing Authority no later than 24 hours prior to the first scratching stage deadline in the case of an early closing race or no later than 24 hours before the declaration deadline in the case of a normal closing race.

A horse initially sold under the hammer but whose sale was subsequently cancelled for whatever reason will still be qualified for Auction races. Such instances include the horse failing a veterinary examination, a void sale, disputed bids, etc. The auction price used will be the initial price unless notification has been received from the Sales companies indicating that the horse has been re-submitted as the result of a void sale. If the horse was not re-submitted it will still be qualified but will be assessed on the auction price of its void sale.

iv) In the case of any dispute the official sale return will be used to determine the validity of the sale. The Authority will be the final arbiters of qualification for entry.

v) Any sale conducted outside the sales ring (private sale) will not be considered to qualify the horse for an auction value.

vi) Where horses are sold through the ring at specified sales outside Great Britain, the following procedure will apply:-

1. The purchase price in local currency will be converted to pounds sterling using the rate of exchange shown in Schedule (F)14. The rate of exchange at the time of the sale will not be used.

2. Since practices differ between sales in Great Britain and those staged overseas in the inclusion or otherwise of Buyers' Premiums within the published sales price, and in order to reflect more fairly the total price paid, the appropriate Buyer's Premium, as set out below, will then be added to the converted sterling price. This resulting figure will then be used to determine eligibility, weights, etc., for any relevant race.

vii) For sales staged in Great Britain which sell horses in pounds sterling with an additional Buyer's Premium, in order to reflect more fairly the total price paid, the appropriate Buyer's Premium, as set out below, will be added to the price. This resulting figure will then be used to determine eligibility, weights, etc., for any relevant race.

(viii) For sales staged in Great Britain which sell horses in guineas sterling, the purchase price will be converted to pounds sterling. This resulting figure will then be used to determine eligibility, weights, etc., for any relevant race.

Sales Company	Country	Buyer's Premium %
Arqana	France	6
Baden-Badener AG (BBAG)	Germany	6
Brightwells Ltd	Great Britain	6
Doncaster Bloodstock Sales Ltd	Great Britain	6
Fasig-Tipton Co. Inc	U.S.A	0
Goffs Bloodstock Sales Ltd	Ireland	6
Goresbridge Horse Sales Ltd	Ireland	6

Keeneland Association Inc	U.S.A	0
Ocala Breeders Sales Co. Inc	U.S.A	0
*Osarus Vente	France	6
Societa Gestione Aste (SGA)	Italy	5
Tattersalls Ltd	Great Britain	0
Tattersalls (Ireland) Ltd	Ireland	6
*Osarus Vente (Sales price of 15,000 Euros or below)	France	7

## Carprofen

The British Horseracing Authority wish to draw Trainers attention to advice issued by the manufacturer of Carprofen (currently available as "Rimadyl" granules or injection) in 1997 that, after a course of treatment, the drug may be detected in urine for up to 14 days. There is additional evidence that, under certain circumstances, the drug may be detectable in urine for up to 20 days after administration and Trainers should consult their Veterinary Surgeons before declaring to race any horses that have been recently treated with Carprofen.

## Claiming of Horses from Selling and Claiming Races

It has come to the attention of the British Horseracing Authority that some of the current "Protocol for Claimants" when lodging a claim for a horse are not fully understood by all claimants.

To assist claimants the Authority would like to make clear the protocol for persons who are involved in multi-ownerships. It is an offence under the Rules of Racing to submit or be involved in the submission of a duplicate claim. Accordingly persons who are involved in multi-ownerships and who wish to make a claim should check that no other claim for the same horse has been made by another person involved in the same multi-ownership. Trainers should also ensure that they and their authorised employees do not make more than one claim for the same horse.

Any claimant who may be at risk of an offence under the provisions of the Rules relating to duplicate claims should ask the person with whom they are lodging their claim for the names of the earlier claimants prior to deciding if they wish to proceed to lodge a claim. The onus rests with claimant to make the request to be provided with the names of any earlier claimants.

## Colours - Registration of

- Colours are registered in accordance with Rules (E)82 to 85.
- Where a person or entity declines or fails to apply for re-registration of colours as required or elects to cancel the registration of such colours the British Horseracing Authority will endeavour to confirm the cancellation of the colours registration, through communication to the last known address of the person or entity in whose name the colours had been registered but it is the overriding responsibility of every such person or entity to acquaint himself with the relevant procedures and ensure he makes an application to re-register as required if that is his intention. The date from which the colours will be available for re-registration will be set at the Authority's discretion and, unless the re-registration is offered by the Authority for sale, will normally be three months from the date of de-registration.
- The Authority may invite applications for registration of new or lapsed colours in such manner as they shall think fit including seeking tenders or conducting an auction thereof whereby the successful tenderer or bidder shall be that person or entity which is prepared to pay the largest sum for the first registration fee provided always that the Authority consider such sum to be adequate. A successful tenderer or bidder shall cause full payment of the said sum to be made within 12 days or within such period as the Authority may from time to time require otherwise such tender or bid shall be deemed invalid. Invited applications for registration of new or lapsed colours shall not be approved until such time as payment thereof has been effected.
- Where a person or entity wishes to surrender his registration of colours the Authority may agree in advance to give such person or entity such share of the subsequent first registration fee as they may in their absolute discretion think fit.

## Declaration to run - Extension of the time - Rule (F)90

The British Horseracing Authority gives notice that the procedure to give effect to the extended time period for

declaration referred to in Rule (F)90.2 will operate as shown below where the number of declarations received by the day of the original deadline is

- (a) seven or less for any Flat Race Handicap (including Listed Handicaps)
- (b) five or less for any Pattern Race or Listed Race unless Rule (F)90.2.1 applies, and
- (c) three or less for a race which is to be run on a Monday to Friday (inclusive) or four or less have been received for a race run on a Saturday or Sunday.
- (d) Declarations at the non-preferred meeting (see Rule (F)98.2.3.2) shall not be taken into account for the purposes of the above races.

The Racing Calendar Office will endeavour to contact the Trainer of any horse not declared for which an entry or confirmation of entry had been accepted at either the 5 or 6 day entry stage for the race in question. However, the Authority draws attention to the fact that whilst every effort is made, such contact cannot be guaranteed. Providing contact has been made with all the Trainers concerned prior to 10.30 a.m. (or such earlier or later time as the Authority shall decide), and they have stated their intention to declare to run or not as the case may be the extended time period for declaration to run will cease. Otherwise the extended time period for declaration to run will apply up to the time indicated above as the case may be, (or such earlier or later time as the Authority shall decide). In addition Trainers should note that when a race is subject to a time extension for declarations this fact will be displayed promptly on the Racing Administration Internet Site by means of a dedicated page. Any necessary raising of weights required in accordance with Rule (F)36 and will be carried out at the time of the revised deadline.

The Authority also gives notice that if a horse is already declared to run under the provisions of Rule (F)89 in another race on the day in question the Trainer of the horse will not be afforded the opportunity to declare for the race for which the time for declaration to run has been extended unless the horse is doubly declared under the provisions of Rule (F)98 or 99.

Where a horse is doubly declared under Rule (F)98 or 99 the preferred meeting for the horse may be changed if the original non-preferred meeting is subject to an extended time period for declaration.

## **Detection of the Use of Anti-Infective drugs**

The overarching policy behind medication control in British horseracing is the principle that 'no horse should run in Great Britain under the effects of medication or have any substance present in its system that can affect performance'. Prohibited substances are defined in the Rules of Racing as substances capable at any time of acting on a broad range of mammalian body systems; these substances must not be present on a raceday.

In the context of anti-infective drugs it is both understood that whilst they act on non-mammalian body systems - antibiotics for example on bacteria, anti-viral drugs on viruses, anti-fungal drugs on fungi, de-worming drugs on parasites etc, these drugs also can have direct and indirect effects on mammalian body systems.

The Authority's position is that it should implement its approach of strict liability for the use of prohibited substances with discretion for such anti-infective drugs. Firstly, because some anti-infective treatments are given for certain durations to avoid the development of drug resistance, low levels of drugs such as antibiotics, may be present after the condition has resolved and it would not be in the public interest to discourage such good practice. Secondly, the use of preventative medication such as de-worming drugs, carefully planned around racedays, is considered good horse husbandry, and again it would not be in the public interest to discourage such good practices.

The approach of recognising the need for the use of anti-infective medication is qualified by several important factors;

- a) such treatments must not allow a horse to run that is unfit to do so,
- b) the horse must not be contagious to other animals or people,
- c) the drug must be being used for an anti-infective indication and not for another reason, and
- d) the drug must be being used appropriately.

Therefore the Authority advises that for anti-infective drugs, with specified exceptions as below, their standing instruction to the testing laboratory in respect of a report of a screening finding of anti-infective drugs is not to produce a Certificate of Analysis.

However at the Authority's absolute discretion, if it considers that such medications are being used in an inappropriate or unsafe manner, as would be judged for example by drug screening findings, medication and veterinary clinical records, disciplinary action will be considered. Importantly the Rules of Racing state that every

treatment must be fully justifiable by the medical condition of the horse receiving the treatment and that Trainers must ensure that all treatments and medication administered to a horse under his care or control are given in the interests of its best health and welfare.

Attention is also drawn to BHA Notices:

- 1) Administration of Levamisole/Tetramisole to horses in training
- 2) Procaine
- 3) Anti-viral drug Amantidine - Use off

(where it should be noted that detection of the use of these medications will be reported and where their use is reported disciplinary action will be taken).

## **Double Engagements**

The British Horseracing Authority inform Stewards that in cases where the horse is engaged on two consecutive days and when the decision to race on the first day has not been made by the Stewards by the time when the declaration must be made for the second day it would be advisable to waive the penalty if the horse does not run for the second day's engagement provided it ran on the previous day.

## **Elective Testing - Procedure for**

In co-operation with the British Horseracing Authority, the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory (HFL) offers an analytical service to Trainers who wish to establish that drugs given in essential veterinary treatment have cleared from a horse's system before a race. This service may also be used when a Trainer suspects inadvertent medication or contaminated feedstuffs have been given to a horse or horses. The tests will be carried out at the discretion of the Authority which may in any case decline to allow the testing to be carried out, without being required to give any reasons. In order to be worthwhile, the results of tests must be available as quickly as possible and to ensure this the following procedure will apply.

The Trainer should telephone HFL (01638 720500) or the Authority (020 7152 2000) and request an Elective Testing Sample Submission Form, leaving his name and fax/telephone number.

HFL or the Authority will send the form to the Trainer by fax.

The Trainer and his Veterinary Surgeon (where applicable) should complete and sign the form and send it by fax to HFL (01638 724200). It is advisable to keep a copy.

The signature of the Veterinary Surgeon is not necessary when the sample relates to suspected inadvertent medication or contaminated feed.

The sample for analysis must be urine and a minimum of 50 millilitres is required.

The urine must be collected in a clean, leakproof container and care should be taken not to contaminate it in any way. Lining the collecting vessel with an unused polythene bag is a good way of achieving this.

(NB Since a sample taken under the Elective Testing Procedure will not be regarded as official the use of tamper evident packaging is not required).

The container used for sending the sample to HFL must be clean but does not need to be sterile. Bottles that have previously contained medicines are not suitable as traces may remain, even after washing. Plastic bottles are safer than glass and it is important to ensure that the bottle can be securely closed and does not leak. The container must be marked (preferably labelled) with the number of the Elective Testing Sample Submission Form.

The sample should be packed securely, together with the original of the completed submission form and credit card details or a cheque to cover the analysis fee laid down in the Terms and Conditions, marked 'Elective Testing' and sent to Horseracing Forensic Laboratory Ltd., Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambs CB7 5WW.

HFL will contact the Authority upon receipt of the faxed form (Paragraph 3 above) in order to obtain testing approval.

The Authority will endeavour to inform HFL of their decision whether to allow the analysis to proceed as soon as possible so that when the sample is received, the procedure may in appropriate cases be started immediately.

If the Authority refuses approval for the test HFL will return the fee to the Trainer and destroy the sample.

The report will be faxed to the Trainer and the Authority, the original being posted to the Trainer. Wherever possible the report will be ready within three full working days of receipt of the sample.

The testing and analysis shall be carried out by HFL on such Terms and Conditions as may be approved from time to time by the Authority.

The Authority draw attention to the fact that there is no assurance that the results of an analysis will be replicated by an analysis of another sample taken later from the same horse, and that a negative report from Elective Testing does not override the Rules of Racing with regard to the testing of post-race samples and the consequences of the results of such testing being positive.

Following the introduction of the Equine Anti-Doping Rules on 2 March 2015 it is a requirement for Great Britain (GB) bred horses to be registered within a specified period to become eligible to race in GB.

Rule (G)1.1.1 states that "**Breeders must submit a complete application to register Horses with the General Stud Book within 12 months of their birth**".

Schedule (B)2 paragraph 4B states that horses foaled in GB on or after 1 January 2015 are only eligible to race in Britain when the application to register the horse has been made to the General Stud Book (GSB) within twelve months of the horse's birth. Several notices and reminders have been published over the last year in relation to this and other requirements of the Equine Anti-Doping Rules.

The BHA acknowledges that this is the first year that new Rules have been in effect, and whilst the large majority of horses have been registered in accordance with the 12 month deadline, the BHA recognise that there might be a few rare individual circumstances in which the deadline has been inadvertently missed. Therefore the BHA have agreed that it is reasonable and pragmatic to grant a two month extension for the registration to be submitted to the GSB.

By this Notice, **the BHA hereby modifies the requirement for a horse in the 2015 foal crop to be registered by 12 months of birth, to 14 months of birth.** Rule (G)1.1.1 and Schedule (B)2 paragraph 4B shall be applied accordingly.

The key points are:

- The 2015 foal crop must have their application lodged within 14 months of their birth;
- The Breeder must submit a complete application by the registration deadline. The application may still be being processed by Weatherbys at the time the deadline expires -this will not impact on the horse's eligibility to race in GB;
- The two month extension only applies to the GB bred 2015 foal crop. The 2016 foal crop must be registered within 12 months of their birth (reduced to six months for the 2017 foal crop);
- No additional extension will be granted if a horse from the 2015 foal crop is not registered within 14 months of its birth;
- Any horse not registered in the specified time frame will not be eligible to race in GB.

Any questions in relation to this notice should be directed to the BHA at [anti-doping@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:anti-doping@britishhorseracing.com).

15 February 2016

## **Eyeshields - Schedule (B)4**

The attention of Trainers is drawn to the possible dangers involved in equipping horses with eyeshields where the eyes are covered with a transparent material. There has been the occasional instance on the All Weather tracks when a horse's vision has been reduced because the eyeshields have become either caked in wet sand due to kickback or steamed up at the start. To prevent similar situations occurring Trainers are advised to only use eyeshields that have adequate ventilation or, if the conditions are such that the kickback is liable to stick to the transparent material, to use an eyeshield where the eyes are covered with a mesh.

## **French Non-Thoroughbreds**

The Racing Calendar Office have been advised by the French Authorities that it is possible that some registered French non-thoroughbreds may be the result of matings which do not comply with the provisions of Rule (E)8.5 which requires that a horse and its sire and dam are each the product of a natural service or covering.

Therefore when considering the purchase of a French non-thoroughbred for racing/breeding purposes in Great Britain, care should be taken to check with the French Authorities, prior to purchase or importation, that the pedigree of the animal in question is free from artificial breeding.

For further information on this subject please contact France Galop (Tel: 00 33 149 10 20 08).

## **Guide to Procedures and Penalties**

If any question arises as to the level of penalty in force at a particular time, it shall be resolved by reference to the

Guide to Procedures and Penalties as it was published on-line on the Rules Book website at that time, save in respect of any manifest error or mistake.

## **Inspection of Course - Withdrawal of horses (Rules (F)96 and 97)**

The British Horseracing Authority gives notice that if the Clerk of the Course announces an inspection of the course and as a result of the announcement a Trainer decides not to run his horse, Stewards have been advised to waive the imposition of the penalty referred to in Rule (F) 96 and 97 for not running.

## **Irish Martingales**

Trainers are advised to always use stoppers when using Irish Martingales on bridles otherwise the Irish Martingale could get caught up in the buckles of the reins and might lead to an accident.

## **laparoscopic sterilisation**

Trainers are advised that they must inform the Racing Calendar Office of any horse that has undergone laparoscopic sterilisation. Details of all notifications will be included on the Racing Administration Internet Site.

If this involves:

- 1) a horse that has undergone laparoscopic sterilisation before 1st April 2010, or
- 2) a mare or filly that has undergone the procedure for therapeutic reasons as confirmed by a satisfactory veterinary certificate submitted to the Racing Calendar Office, or
- 3) a horse that has undergone the procedure and has subsequently been gelded

the notification must be made no later than noon five days before the running of any race in which the horse has been entered to run in Great Britain

## **Minor Offences**

The British Horseracing Authority give notice that Owners, Trainers and Riders will not necessarily have to appear before the Stewards concerning those breaches of the Rules of Racing for which standard fines or penalties are imposed.

In such cases the Stipendiary Steward will approach the person concerned to ask if he is willing for the matter to be considered by the Stewards in his absence. If he is so willing he will be asked to sign a formal declaration which will also show the notice, including the amount of any fine imposed, which will subsequently be published.

The Authority emphasises, however, that this procedure in no way precludes any person who wishes to make representations personally to the Stewards concerning his case from appearing before them and it does not limit the powers of the Stewards to hold full enquiries.

## **Mounting Horses in the Saddling Boxes or Stable Yard**

Trainers are advised that permission will not be granted for horses to be mounted in the saddling boxes or the stable yard on the grounds of safety.

## **Performances of Horses**

The Authority gives notice that Trainers may be approached by a Stipendiary Steward following the performance of their horse to ask if they are able to account for its running. The Trainer's reply will be passed to the Stewards who will either publicise it or hold a Stewards' enquiry. Failure by the Trainer to disclose such information will result in a report being submitted to the Stewards or the Authority.

The Authority emphasise, however, that this procedure in no way precludes any Trainer who wishes to make representations personally to the Stewards concerning his horse from appearing before them and it does not limit the powers of Stewards to hold full enquiries.

## **Ponying of Horses to the Start - Protocol**

The British Horseracing Authority draw Trainers' attention to the following Protocol drawn up between the RCA and the NTF for the 'ponying' of horses to the start.

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Trainers should notify the Clerk of the Course by no later than the time for declarations under Rule (F)89 of the Rules of Racing if they wish to 'pony' a specified runner to the start.
2. Permission will only be granted on the basis that the runner will be led to the start by use of a tether from the 'pony' and under no circumstances will the 'pony' be allowed to proceed loose in front of the runner.



3. All 'ponies' shall be geldings and vaccinated in accordance with Rule (E)18.

4. The 'pony' will not be able to use the racecourse stables without permission from the Racecourse Executive, and only once a stable has been allocated to every runner engaged at the meeting. If the 'pony' uses the racecourse stables it can only be attended by authorised stable employees.

#### RACEDAY

5. All horses to be 'ponied' should go down early and at a normal pace so that the other runners are not delayed at the start. They should pass the stands in the same way as all other runners (if required to do so by the Racecourse Executive). In the case of races with a parade, the trainer must comply with the instructions from the Stewards and the Clerk of the Course, in accordance with Rules (B)29 and (B)30.

6. The 'pony' should wait outside the paddock until the jockeys are instructed to mount, when it may enter the paddock to join up with the runner. Alternatively, the 'pony' may wait at the entrance onto the racecourse before joining up.

7. On arrival at the start the 'pony' may stay with the runner until the horses go behind the stalls or may immediately separate and proceed behind the stalls, where it should wait at a safe distance until the runners are dispatched. It should then exit from the track by the shortest route which also avoids interference with the running of the race. The rider of the 'pony' will at all times obey the instructions of the Starter, his assistants or other relevant Officials.

8. The trainer will be responsible at all times for the conduct of the 'pony' and its rider while on racecourse property. The rider and the 'pony' should be of smart appearance and the rider wearing a skull cap and safety vest that meet current safety standards.

9. The trainer will in all cases be responsible for the provision and associated costs of the 'pony'.

10. The Stewards have the authority to cancel any 'ponying' arrangements if they believe the normal conduct of the meeting is likely to be, or is being, compromised.

#### **Previous runs: Examination of**

In order to establish compliance with Rules (B)58, 59 and (C)45, the British Horseracing Authority give notice that, whilst there will be no departure from the current practice of Stewards enquiring on the day of the race when a horse appears not to have been run on its merits, it is not always until an apparent improvement is revealed that there is sufficient evidence to warrant an enquiry. The Authority have therefore decided to look more closely at a horse's previous runs after the circumstances listed in either paragraphs 1 (a) or (b) below have occurred:

(a) If a horse wins, or is placed in a Handicap, Classified Stakes or Rating Related Maiden Race without having previously been placed in the first 4, a Stewards' enquiry may be held to ascertain whether the connections wish to put on record anything relating to earlier races or the past well-being of the horse which in their view might have a significant bearing on any subsequent enquiry. The Stewards will either note what is said, or they will forward the comments of the connections to the Authority's Office so that the riding of the horse in its earlier races can be reviewed in conjunction with this evidence;

(b) Other cases of marked improvement of any sort will be dealt with as above, unless there was a Rule (B)58, 59 or (C)45 enquiry after the horse's previous race which led to an offence under the Rules being proved.

After the video recordings have been examined at the Authority's Office, either the case will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel for an enquiry under Rules (B)58, 59 or (C)45 and connections will be notified accordingly, or, because there is no case to answer, the matter will be closed.

#### **Private Sampling of Horses on Racecourses**

Private samples may be taken by Veterinary Officers at the request of Owners or Trainers where conditions permit. In addition, such samples may be analysed by the Official Analyst at the Horserace Forensic Laboratories on payment of a fee. The samples will not be regarded as official, and no action will be taken under the Rules of Racing if substances other than normal nutrients are found, although in such cases Trainers will be asked to give their co-operation to establish the source of the substance as this will obviously be in the interests both of greater security and research. Any Trainer or Owner who wishes to have samples taken from his horse after a race should apply to the Stewards, who will decide whether or not it will be possible for the Veterinary Officer to deal

with the matter. Should it not be possible for the Veterinary Officer to do so facilities will be made available for a Veterinary Surgeon of the Owner's or Trainer's choice to take the samples but in these cases arrangements for analysis must be made privately.

## **Prohibited Substances**

The British Horseracing Authority wishes to remind Trainers of the need to allow adequate time to elapse between the termination of a legitimate course of veterinary treatment and a horse's next race. This is true for all veterinary drugs, but is more likely to be a problem with those that are in regular use, for example non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (phenylbutazone, flunixin etc). It is unwise to allow less than 8 days to elapse after any treatment and this may be inadequate for some drugs. Trainers should always consult their Veterinary Surgeons for advice and may, when appropriate, choose to have a horse tested electively before it runs. (See Notice headed "Elective Testing - Procedure for").

## **Prohibited Substances- Natural Products and Supplements (including Devils Claw)**

The British Horseracing Authority wishes to inform trainers that where natural products, as well as manufactured products and medicines, do affect a specified body system referred to in Schedule (C)6 they are also regarded as prohibited substances.

As an example, Devil's Claw (or products containing Devil's Claw) may produce a positive test for harpagoside and similar substances, and great care should be taken over its use. Following research by the Authority together with other European Racing Authorities on the detection of harpagoside, the Authority recommends that the use of such products is withdrawn 48 hours before racing.

Similarly, great care should be exercised with the use of feed supplements. The Authority's website contains information on safe and proper use of supplements and describes how advice can be obtained (LINK). In general it is prudent to record all supplement use, as with feed, in case problems arise. Furthermore the use of supplements which contain prohibited substances should be recorded in the medication records as required by Rule (C)13.

<http://www.britishhorseracing.com/resources/equine-science-and-welfare/medication-and-doping-faqs.asp>

## **Prohibited Substances - Precautions relating to**

The British Horseracing Authority draw the attention of Trainers to the following:-

1. The necessity for taking all reasonable precautions to ensure that those manufactured compound feeds which Trainers use for their horses are free from Prohibited Substances. Trainers should note that the British Equestrian Trade Association has introduced two assurance schemes designed to reduce the risk of naturally occurring prohibited substances (NOPS) in equine feeds. Precautions are particularly important in the case of feedstuffs not specifically manufactured for horses racing under the Rules of Racing, since they may contain substances prohibited under the Rules.

2. The Disciplinary Panel has adjudicated upon several cases where Prohibited Substances have been found in the urine of the horse and in some cases the source of the substance has not been established.

The failure to trace the substance has been exacerbated in each instance by the fact that when Integrity Services Department Investigating Officer carried out his investigations the Trainer no longer had any of the feedstuffs in his yard that he was feeding to the horse at the time of the race in question. Furthermore, he had usually destroyed all the sacks in which the food was delivered and it was not possible, via the sack coding, to trace the contents back to a particular delivery from the mill.

To alleviate the problem, and to ensure that the waiver provided for in Rule (C)53 can be exercised if justified, the Authority strongly recommend that Trainers retain details of any coding that appears on the sacks used for delivery, together with samples of all those feedstuffs which they use for their horses. Then in the event of a positive report on a sample of urine, the coding and samples of feedstuffs can be handed over to the Investigating Officer for laboratory examination.

3. Many substances can be absorbed through the skin of the horse and lead to positive findings in the urine. Trainers are therefore advised to exercise care with shampoos and with any other preparation applied to the skin, both as to what is used and when it is used, and should consult their Veterinary Surgeon if they have any doubt on this matter. For example the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent lbyprofen, which is available from pharmacists as topical gels (e.g. Iburgh, Proflex) intended to treat musculoskeletal pain in humans can be

absorbed through the skin and lead to positive findings in urine.

4. The need to ensure that medicines are only administered to the horses for which they are prescribed and to avoid any cross contamination of feed.

5. The need for great care when administering medication by inhalation, including using nebulisers, to avoid contamination of the horse or its local environment. Such contamination may result in extended detection of the medication in the horse being treated, or unexpected detection in other horses. Veterinary advice should be sought to avoid such problems.

## **Riding to Achieve the Best Possible Placing - Rule (D)45**

For the avoidance of doubt the general requirement that a Rider must ride his horse throughout the race in such a way that he can be seen to have made a genuine attempt to obtain from his horse timely, real and substantial efforts to achieve the best possible placing, applies in all cases. This includes cases of gurgling or other breathing difficulties. It is not considered contrary to the welfare of the horse with symptoms of breathing difficulty to be ridden in accordance with the general requirement unless or until such time as the horse is shown to be unable to continue racing in which case it should be pulled up. Riding such horses tenderly as the race develops in the belief that this will give the horse a better chance of achieving its best possible placing is not acceptable.

## **Rules of Racing**

If any question arises as to the form of any Rule in force at a particular time it shall be resolved by reference to the Rules as they were published online on the Rules Book website at that time, save in respect of any manifest error or mistake.

## **Saddling in Stables**

Rule (B)27.3 requires that every horse be saddled in the appointed place except that horses which are difficult to saddle may be saddled in the official racecourse stables provided permission is obtained from the Stewards. The appointed place is the saddling boxes, except at:

Ayr

Bath

Beverley

Brighton

Carlisle

Catterick Bridge

Exeter

Doncaster

Fakenham

Ffos Las

Fontwell Park

Hamilton Park

Haydock Park

Hexham

Kelso

Kempton Park

Lingfield Park

Market Rasen

Mussleburgh

Newcastle

Newton Abbot

Perth

Plumpton

Redcar

Salisbury

Sandown Park

Sedgefield

Southwell

Stratford

Thirsk

Towcester  
Wetherby  
Wincanton  
Wolverhampton and  
Yarmouth

where it is both the saddling boxes and the official racecourse stables. It therefore follows that permission is not required to saddle in the official racecourse stables at these racecourses.

Trainers should note that if having saddled their horse in the official racecourse stables they fail to bring their horse into the Parade Ring by the time stipulated on the Timetable Plan for Start Times displayed in the Weighing Room and the official racecourse stables before the signal to mount is given, they will be fined as follows:

1st Offence - £140

2nd Offence - £280

3rd Offence - £560

4th Offence - Refer

## **Safety of a Course on Raceday - Procedure when doubts expressed**

The British Horseracing Authority wishes it to be known that if Jockeys or Trainers wish to draw attention to any matter relating to the safety of the course, they should first approach the Stipendiary Steward. The Stipendiary Steward will arrange a meeting with the Stewards at which nominated representatives will be invited to put their case. After the Stewards have reached their decision, it will be communicated to the complainants.

## **Transactions between Countries - Arrangements**

The following arrangements apply where an entry or similar transaction is received in one country for transmission to a second country, in which the race is to be staged. Where such transactions involve a financial commitment equal to or greater than £10,000 (or equivalent), the Nominator may be required to provide sufficient funds in advance. In the event of failure to do this, the Turf Authority staging the race may not accept the entry. Additionally, the British Horseracing Authority may require the Nominator and/or Owner to provide sufficient funds in advance for the initial Stake and/or any additional sums laid down in the conditions of any race staged in this country.

## **Tubed horses**

The British Horseracing Authority (the Authority) has recently considered the current position where tubed horses (horses with a tracheostomy) are able to participate in turf races in Great Britain. In considering this matter the Authority took into account the effect on the horse, the appearance of this surgical procedure, international harmonisation and how this procedure, as distinct from procedures designed to restore usual function of the horse's airway ("wind ops"), should be assessed. The Authority consulted the BHA's Veterinary Committee who advised that it was an increasingly uncommon salvage procedure, whose use would likely be to die out of its own accord over a period time.

The Authority has decided that it wishes to phase out the use of tubing from 1st October 2012. Using the Authority's normal Rule making procedures a Rule will be introduced that states that horses that have been tubed will not be allowed to run in all races under Rules. However the Rule will also state that it will not apply to turf races where the tubing took place before 1st October 2012 and the trainer is able to produce a certificate, signed by a veterinary surgeon, to this effect. In practical terms, horses entered in races after that date should have available on request a straightforward veterinary certificate stating that a tracheostomy was present before 1st October 2012 to allow them to run. It is also the Authority's intention to work with the Point to Point Authority to introduce a similar Regulation for horses competing in Point to Points at a time to be announced.

The intention of this advance notice of the change is to recognise that the decision to tube a horse is one taken over a period of time and so to allow the necessary forward planning for the small number of horses that are tubed or where tubing is already an option under consideration.

## **Vaccination endorsements**

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons has instructed its members that they should only transfer into a passport the record of vaccinations against equine influenza by other Veterinary Surgeons if details of those vaccinations are contained in a document identifying the horse concerned, its breeding and including both written and diagrammatic descriptions of its markings, or by reference to its microchip number.

Owners and Trainers are advised that if they take a horse into their care and its vaccination details are shown on a separate document, which may be attached to the passport, but without the details having been transferred into the appropriate page of the passport they should initially seek the advice of their Veterinary Surgeon. If he is unable to transfer the details of the vaccinations it will either be necessary to have the passport completed by the Veterinary Surgeon who vaccinated the horse or a new programme of vaccination must be started.

The British Horseracing Authority give notice that whenever a horse which is due to carry top weight (or joint top weight) in a

- Class 1 Handicap Steeple Chase or Hurdle race or
- Class 2 Open Handicap Steeple Chase or Hurdle race

does not run in that race, other than as permitted under Rule (F)98 or 99, a Stewards' enquiry may be held to ascertain the reasons for not running. The Stewards will merely note what is said and forward any comments to the BHA's Head Office so that the Authority can examine the circumstances more closely. Furthermore, Trainers should note that the Authority may, under Rule (A)48, require a Veterinary Officer to carry out an examination of the horse.

After the investigation has been completed, either the case will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel to hold an enquiry under Rule (F)96, or, because there is no case to answer, the matter will be closed and the Trainer informed of the outcome.