

News



New Jersey
Office of the Attorney General

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

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For Immediate Release:

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Amendments Would Impose Race Day Ban on Certain Substances, Levels of Therapeutic Medications in Standardbred Horses

Date of Proposal: June 16, 2014

Proposal Number: PRN 2014-094

Proposal Description: The proposed amendments apply to rules of the New Jersey Racing Commission concerning the administration of medication and foreign substances to standardbred race horses. The Commission proposes amendments that codify portions of the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) Model Rules on Medications and Prohibited Substances in order to ensure proper administration of medications, protect the health of the horses, and protect the integrity of the sport. Among the amendments is one to N.J.A.C. 13:71-23.1 providing that on race day, irrespective of the date, time or method of administration, no horse entered to start in, or participate in, a race shall carry in its body any drug or substance foreign to the natural horse, except external rubs and innocuous compounds. Examples of prohibited foreign substances include: chemical substances, stimulants, depressants, anesthetics, tranquilizers, anti-inflammatories, pain killers, confectionary sugar and stamina builders, as well as mixtures, compounds or solutions – commonly referred to as milkshakes – that contain any prohibited drug or substance. Another amendment would ban from competition on race day any horse that tests above certain threshold levels for 26 medications categorized as Controlled

Therapeutic Medications.

Although the 26 medications have been recognized as necessary for the routine treatment of illness or injury in race horses, research has determined that these medications may impact a horse's performance on race day. As a result, these medications are permissible only when a race horse tests below threshold levels set forth in the RCI Controlled Therapeutic Medication Schedule, Version 2.1 (revised April 17, 2014.) During the pendency of the proposed rulemaking, the Racing Commission intends to issue written warnings when race horses test at or above the threshold levels for the 26 medications in the Controlled Therapeutic Medication Schedule. However, upon the effective date of the amendments, penalties will be imposed for any violations of this rule.

Summary of Proposal: A complete summary of the proposed rule amendment is posted on the New Jersey Racing Commission Web site at: www.nj.gov/oag/racing/proposed.html

Public Comment: Public comment on the proposed rule will be accepted until August 15, 2014.

Please direct all comments to:

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