



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Racing Commission

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Attention All Horsemen

Please be aware of the following Virginia Racing Commission regulations regarding searches and prohibited practices:

Search and Seizure

A holder of a permit shall consent upon application and for the duration of the permit to personal inspections (searches) of the holder, inspections (searches) of the holder's personal property, and inspections (searches) of the premises and property located within the enclosure of the racetrack related to his participation in a race meeting by persons authorized by the commission, and to seizure of such property as is determined by the commission's designee conducting the search to be in violation of Chapter 29 (§ [59.1-364](#) et seq.) of Title 59.1 of the Code of Virginia or this chapter. The following provisions shall apply to searches and seizures:

1. Any drug, stimulant, narcotic, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, hypodermic needle, hypodermic syringe, battery or other electrical or mechanical appliance or any other device or substance which could be used to affect the speed or action of a horse, or any other device prohibited by this chapter that is in the possession of a holder of a permit may be seized.
2. Commission personnel have the right to enter into or upon buildings, stables, rooms (other than residences), private vehicles or other places within the enclosure, and may examine them, and inspect and examine personal property and effects of a holder of a permit for the purpose of determining that the items listed in subdivision 1 of this subsection are not in the possession of a permit holder unless authorized by Chapter 29 of Title 59.1 of the Code of Virginia or this chapter.
3. In addition, commission personnel shall visit, investigate, and have free access to the office, track, facilities, or other places of business of any licensee or permit holder and may compel the production of any of the books, documents, records, or memoranda of any licensee or permit holder for the purpose of satisfying themselves that Chapter 29 of Title 59.1 of the Code of Virginia and this chapter are being strictly complied with.
4. Failure to submit to any inspection or search described in this subsection or to any production of documents or seizure of property resulting therefrom may subject a licensee or a holder of a permit to disciplinary action. In the event that such licensee or permit holder refuses to submit, the following procedure shall apply:

Such refusal shall be immediately reported to the stewards by the person attempting to conduct the search. Such refusal, and the basis therefor, shall be provided in writing to the stewards by the permit holder and shall state the date, time and circumstances of the attempted search and his reasons for refusing to submit to it. Upon receipt of such report, the stewards may take appropriate disciplinary action, which may include the revocation or suspension of the permit or referral to the appropriate law-enforcement authorities, but neither the search nor any seizure of the property shall proceed.

5. The foregoing shall not preclude commission personnel from conducting searches and seizures when they have reasonable suspicion that a permit holder is in the act of violating a regulation or evidence of a violation of a regulation may be destroyed, in which event the provisions of these regulations dealing with consent, refusal to consent, scope of search, and disciplinary action shall apply.

Prohibited Practices

A. No trainer shall allow a horse to appear in a race, qualifying race, or official timed workout when the horse contains in its system any prohibited substance, as determined by testing of blood, saliva, or urine, or any other reasonable means.

B. No person shall administer any prohibited substance to a horse on race day. Furosemide is the only substance specifically permitted for use in approved horses on race day.

C. No veterinarian or permit holder shall, without good cause, possess or administer any substance to a horse stabled within the enclosure or at any facility under the jurisdiction of the commission if the substance:

1. Has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for any use (human or animal) or by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Veterinary Biologics;
2. Is on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's Schedule I or Schedule II of controlled substances as prepared by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to 21 USC §§ 811 and 812;
3. May endanger the health and welfare of the horse or endanger the safety of the rider or driver, or may adversely affect the integrity of racing; or
4. Does not have a recognized laboratory analytical method to detect and confirm its administration.

D. No person, except a veterinarian holding a valid veterinarian's permit or an assistant under the veterinarian's immediate supervision, shall have in his possession within the enclosure of a horse racing facility any prescription substance for animal use unless:

1. The person actually possesses within the enclosure of the horse racing facility documentary evidence that a prescription has been issued to him for the substance by a licensed veterinarian;
2. The prescription substance is labeled with a dosage for the horse to be treated with the prescription substance; and
3. The horse or horses named in the prescription are then under the care and supervision of the permit holder and are then stabled within the enclosure of the horse racing facility.

E. The possession or administration of equine growth hormone, venoms, erythropoietin (Epogen), darbepoietin, oxyglobin, Hemopure, or any analogous substance that increases oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood is prohibited. Furthermore, should the analysis of a test sample detect the presence of antibodies of erythropoietin or darbepoietin or any analogous substance in the horse's blood that indicates a history of use of these substances, the horse shall be prohibited from racing and placed on the veterinarian's list until the horse tests negative for the presence of such antibodies.

F. The use of androgenic and anabolic steroids is prohibited in racing horses as stipulated in [11VAC10-180-75](#).

G. The use of an extracorporeal shockwave therapy device or radial pulse wave therapy device is prohibited on the racetrack premises and at any site that falls under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Racing Commission unless:

1. The therapy device is registered with the commission veterinarian;
2. The therapy device is used by a veterinarian who is a permit holder; and
3. Each use of the therapy device is reported to the commission veterinarian by the treating veterinarian within 24 hours of treatment.

Notwithstanding the provisions in this subsection, whether on or off the premises, a shockwave therapy device or radial pulse wave therapy device shall not be used on a racehorse fewer than 10 days before the horse is to race or train at racing speed. For the purposes of this calculation, the day of treatment shall be considered day one. Furthermore, the horse that was treated shall be placed on the veterinarian's list for 10 days from the date of treatment.

H. Tubing of horses prohibited. The tubing or dosing of any horse for any reason on race day is prohibited unless administered for medical emergency purposes by a licensed veterinarian in which case the horse shall be scratched. The practice of administration of any substance via a tube or other method into a horse's stomach on race day is considered a violation of this chapter.

1. Using or possessing the ingredients or the paraphernalia associated with forced feeding to a horse of any alkalinizing agent with or without a concentrated form of carbohydrate, or administering any substance by tubing or other method on race day shall be considered a violation of this chapter.
2. Under the provisions of this subsection, endoscopic examination by a licensed veterinarian shall not be considered a violation of this chapter.

I. Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, no substance of any kind may be administered to a horse within four hours, or three hours for a ship-in meet, of the scheduled post time for the race in which the horse is entered. To ensure uniform supervision and conformity to this chapter, the trainer shall have each horse programmed to race stabled in its assigned stall within the enclosure of the horse race facility no fewer than five hours, or four hours for a ship-in meet, prior to post time for the respective race.

J. Intra-articular injections prohibited. Injecting any substance or inserting a needle into a joint space is prohibited within 14 days prior to the horse's race for flat and steeplechase racing and within seven days for harness racing. All intra-articular injections shall be reported by the treating veterinarian to the commission veterinarian within 24 hours of treatment. Horses treated shall be ineligible to race for a period of 14 days for flat and steeplechase racing and for seven days for harness racing. For the purposes of this calculation, the day of treatment shall be considered day one.

K. Peri-neural injections prohibited. Injecting a local anesthetic or other chemical agent adjacent to a nerve is prohibited within three days prior to the horse's race.

L. Hyperbaric oxygen chamber prohibited. Subjecting a horse to therapy utilizing a hyperbaric oxygen chamber is prohibited within four days prior to the horse's race.

M. Stacking corticosteroids prohibited. The detection of two or more corticosteroids in a horse's post-race biological samples shall constitute a stacking violation and is prohibited.