

# NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION

## Statement of Policy

**DATE SUBMITTED**

**POLICY NUMBER**

**DATE APPROVED**

**CATEGORY**

**DATE REVISED**

**DATE EFFECTIVE**

**SUPERSEDED BY**

**DATE REVIEWED**

**SUMMARY**

**Animal Welfare and Medications Policy**

In accordance with the *NRHA Handbook* (Animal Welfare and Medications Provisions Applicable to All NRHA Events), testing will be implemented, and disciplinary procedures will be enforced based on the seriousness of the violation(s), precedents in similar cases and any prior medications rule violations by the individual(s). The rider is considered the person responsible and is who the penalties will be assessed to. As the rider, it is your responsibility to know what the horse you are showing has received either topically or internally.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PENALTIES**

The following disciplinary chart for NRHA Animal Welfare and Medications violations at NRHA-approved events will be utilized. Names of riders and horses will be published for any of the following applicable offenses in ReinerSuite.

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Overage of a Permitted Substance</b><br>(2-year medications probation period)            | \$500 fine;<br><br>\$1,000 fine for NSAID Stacking | \$1,000 fine;<br><br>\$2,000 fine for NSAID Stacking                    | \$2,000 fine;<br><br>\$4,000 fine for NSAID Stacking; disqualification & publication; 6-month suspension |
| <b>Conditionally Permitted Substance Violation</b><br>(2-year medications probation period) | \$5,000 fine, disqualification and publication     | \$10,000 fine, disqualification and publication, suspended for 90-days  | \$20,000 fine, disqualification and publication; 12-month suspension                                     |
| <b>Prohibited (“Banned”) Substances</b><br>(Permanent probation period)                     | \$10,000 fine, disqualification, and publication   | \$15,000 fine, disqualification and publication, suspended for one year | \$30,000 fine, disqualification and publication, suspended for 3 years                                   |

In reference to “disqualification,” it is defined as a forfeiture of all titles, monies, and awards earned. “Probation” is defined as the minimum disciplinary action taken. If there is a suspension of membership involved with the penalty, that time-period will start after the fine has been paid.

Disciplinary actions and penalties will be administered to the rider of the horse, but also may be assessed to any other person deemed responsible in accordance with the NRHA Animal Welfare and Medications Rule. All owners will be notified of any violations and subsequent action taken. The number of offenses counts across all levels of substances to determine the penalty.

### **FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE A REQUIRED MEDICATION REPORT**

Category I: Failure to timely file a required medication report form for conditionally permitted therapeutic medication if laboratory results and the scenario presented SUPPORT legitimate therapeutic use.

- First offense - warning letter and \$250 fine
- Second offense - \$1,000 fine and 6-month probation
- Third offense - \$2,500 fine; Disqualification and 6-month suspension
- Violations do not count as offenses for other categories
- If no additional medication filing violations occur for 2-years, the violation slate is wiped clean

Category II: Failure to timely file a medication report form for conditionally permitted medications if the laboratory results and scenario **DO NOT** support legitimate therapeutic use.

- Disciplinary Actions and Penalties apply as stated in penalty chart.
- Medication hearing panel may access additional disciplines (including fines, probations, and suspensions) that are equal to, less than or greater than the published disciplinary actions and penalties.

Category III: Offenses for use of a prohibited “banned” substance do not expire like those described in categories I and II above and shall permanently remain on the responsible parties’ record. Failure to properly report the use of Romifidine “Sedivet” will automatically result in a medications violation and the proper penalties will be applied.

**DEFINITION OF CLASSIFICATIONS-** (The *NRHA Handbook* serves as the final, binding authority on all rules and regulations for the Association, including the definition of classifications. The digital version on nrha.com should be referred to for the most up-to-date information.)

#### **Permitted Substance Violation**

An overage of a permitted substance (see below) or the use of more than one NSAID (with the exception of diclofenac, known as “Surpass®”) is defined as a Permitted Substance Violation.

No medications report form is required when using permitted substances at therapeutic levels. Permitted substances require a 6-hour withdrawal prior to the horse competing.

The following substances are recognized by NRHA as permitted controlled substances. NRHA allows these substances individually to be present in the plasma of the horse at the levels provided in the current *NRHA Handbook*. NRHA will not provide recommendations on dosages or withdrawal times. Please speak with your veterinarian.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

1. Diclofenac (Surpass®)

2. Phenylbutazone (Bute®)
3. Flunixin Meglumine (Banamine®)
4. Ketoprofen (Ketofen®)
5. Firocoxib (Equioxx®)

#### Other Permitted Medications

6. Omeprazole (Gastroguard®)
7. Methocarbamol (Robaxin®)
8. Furosemide (Salix®)
9. Altrenogest (Regumate®)
10. Isoxsuprine Hydrochloride (Vasodilan®)
11. Dexamethasone (Dexject SP®)

To avoid a stacking of NSAIDs violation under NRHA Medication Rules, only a single NSAID should be administered within 3 days (72 hours) of showing the horse.

- Example: If your horse is on Banamine (Flunixin) prior to the show and you plan to switch to Phenylbutazone (“Bute”) at the show, you should discontinue administering Banamine at least 72 hours prior to show time.
- 1<sup>st</sup> offense for stacking will be \$1,000 and probation.

This level of the penalty chart refers to a permitted substance where there is an overage of a permitted level found in the horse’s plasma (“Overage of a Permitted Substance”).

#### **Conditionally Permitted Therapeutic Substance**

A horse exhibiting at an NRHA approved event that receives any medication which falls under a controlled substance categorization (in FEI’s substance database); however, is not considered permitted for competition in NRHA, is not eligible for competition unless all the requirements have been met in the current *NRHA Handbook* under section 8, and the facts are furnished in writing on a timely-submitted official Medications Report Form. Please note: The Medications Report Form does not guarantee that you will not be found in violation.

Conditionally permitted substances require a 24-hour withdrawal prior to the horse competing.

Examples of substances that are controlled; however, are not permitted in NRHA competition unless pursuant to Section 8 of the *NRHA Handbook* are as follows:

Cetirizine (Zyrtec®)  
Guaifenesin (Sudafed Cough®)

To see if a substance is considered a conditionally permitted therapeutic substance or “controlled substance,” please speak with your veterinarian or contact the USEF Medications Hotline number at 1-800-633-2472. Please note: This hotline is to only be used to determine if a substance is considered a “controlled or prohibited (“banned”) substance in NRHA competition, it is NOT to be used for dosage or withdrawal recommendations. Limits on permitted substances can be found in the current *NRHA Handbook*.

Should you be found in violation, the level of the penalty chart above named “Conditionally Permitted Substance Violation” will be used to determine the penalty applied.

#### **Prohibited “Banned” Substance:**

A prohibited “banned” substance is defined as the following:

- Any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behavior altering) substance, or drug which might affect the performance of a horse (stimulants and/or depressants are defined as substances which stimulate or depress the cardiovascular, respiratory or central nervous systems), or any

metabolite and/or analogue of any such substance or drug, except as expressly permitted by this rule.

- Any corticosteroid present in the plasma of the horse other than dexamethasone (see Section (e)(ii) of the current *NRHA Handbook*). Corticosteroids are classified as prohibited “banned” substances unless used strictly for a therapeutic purpose, i.e., for the treatment of existing inflammatory conditions related to illness or injury.
- Any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug in excess of one (with the exception of diclofenac, known as “Surpass®”) present in the plasma or urine of the horse (Section 8 of the current *NRHA Handbook* does not apply); exception: topical use of diclofenac (Surpass®) is permitted in addition to one additional nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
- Any substance (or metabolite and/or analogue thereof) permitted by this rule in excess of the maximum limit or other restrictions prescribed in the current *NRHA Handbook*.
- Any substance (or metabolite and/or analogue thereof), regardless of how harmless or innocuous it might be, which might interfere with the detection of any of the substances defined above or quantification of substances permitted by this rule.
- Anabolic Steroids are considered prohibited “banned” substances. No anabolic steroid is to be administered to a horse in a time frame before competition such that it, or any metabolite of it, might be present in the blood at the time of competition. See the Guidelines for the recommended withdrawal times.

#### Additional Medication Guidelines for Prohibited “Banned” Substances

- Short acting tranquilizers, sedatives and antihypertensives such as but not limited to chlorpromazine, ketamine, detomidine, and guanabenz are considered prohibited drugs and should not be used within **4 days (92 hours)** of show time and only under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- Romifidine (Sedivet®) is permitted to be administered at 0.5 cc, 30 minutes prior to competition but must be submitted on the medications report form. Failure to do so will be considered a violation.
- Antipsychotic drugs, Antidepressants and Long-acting tranquilizers such as but not limited to fluphenazine (Prolixin®), reserpine and fluoxetine (Prozac®) are considered prohibited “banned” substances. Many of these drugs can be detected **45 days or longer**.
- NRHA Animal Welfare and Medications Rules prohibit cannabidiols (CBD) and their metabolites. While hemp does not contain more than 0.3% THC, it does contain CBD. CBD, both natural and synthetic forms, are likely to affect the performance of a horse due to its reported anxiolytic effects. This substance is no different than legitimate therapeutics that effect mentation and behavior in horses. Horses competing at NRHA events and under NRHA rules who test positive for natural cannabinoids, synthetic cannabinoids, and other cannabimimetics will be considered in violation of the rules.

At no time are prohibited “banned” substances allowed for use in NRHA competition at any level. NRHA takes the use of prohibited “banned” substances very seriously and will use the bottom level of the penalty chart above in prohibited “banned” substance violations

To see if a substance is considered a “prohibited (“banned”) substance”, please speak with your veterinarian or contact the USEF Medications Hotline number at 1-800-633-2472. Please note: This hotline is to only be used to determine if a substance is considered a “controlled or prohibited “banned” substance” in NRHA competition, it is NOT to be used for dosage or withdrawal recommendations. Limits on permitted substances can be found in the current *NRHA Handbook*.

## EVENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

To provide funds for research, inspection, and enforcement of rules regarding use of medications and drugs, each NRHA approved event worldwide, except where prohibited by law, must assess the exhibitors a medications fee. In the United States and Canada, the fee of \$10 for each horse in the event will be applied. For European events the medications fee will be set by show management. Horses entered in the following classes or shows ONLY, are exempt from payment:

- i. Para-Reining Classes
- ii. Exhibitions
- iii. Non-NRHA approved classes

However, these classes are not exempt from the Animal Welfare and Medications Provisions itself.

It is a violation to assess and/or collect a medication testing fee in excess of, or in addition to, that specified by the NRHA Board of Directors, unless said assessment is approved in writing by NRHA in advance, and then only under the terms and conditions set forth (exception: European events and NRHA-owned events).

It is a violation to withhold from NRHA any or all of the medication testing fees collected in accordance with the fees approved by the NRHA Board of Directors for any purpose, including to defray the expenses incurred providing stalls, passes, and other items to NRHA medication testing personnel, as required by this policy (Exception European events).

Each NRHA approved event shall, at its own cost and expense, set aside and make available to NRHA testing personnel upon request suitable facilities conveniently located for the veterinarian appointed by NRHA and his or her technicians to collect equine blood samples. Suitable facilities mean one or more stalls if available, as requested, that are well lit, clean, dry, freshly bedded, and having a door or gate that can be secured.

Each NRHA approved event, upon request, must furnish the veterinarian approved by NRHA by mail forthwith, with the requested number of official passes and parking passes for the veterinarians and technicians to have immediate and free access to all areas at said NRHA approved event.

## **EVENTS, TESTING AND RESULTS PROCEDURES**

### **NRHA Owned Events**

NRHA will conduct medications testing at all NRHA owned events worldwide. In the event a horse must receive medication to treat a condition after competing, it is imperative that a veterinarian immediately file a medications report form.

### **NRHA Approved Events**

NRHA will also randomly select additional events that will be tested (unless unforeseen, uncontrollable circumstances prohibit). In the random selection, NRHA will attempt to test, when possible, equal number of events in each region of the United States in addition to all NRHA owned events and the Affiliate Regional Championships (“ARCs”). The day(s) the testing team comes to an event will be decided at random by NRHA and availability of the testing teams. Each horse tested will be selected at random by the testing team in their manner of choice. It will be NRHA’s discretion on how many horses will be tested and that will be communicated to the testing team in advance of the event.

In Europe, events with a total of or more than \$15,000 in added money will be automatically tested. Additionally in Europe, show management teams who wish to have their events tested may apply to do so.

## **Sampling Protocol**

Upon being at random or via champion placing for testing, the testing team will introduce themselves to the exhibitor or responsible party and will accompany the horse and responsible party back to the testing stall. The testing team will extract a plasma sample from the horse and will create a "Sample A" and a "Sample B". The responsible party is required to observe the entire process, complete/review the informational card containing the sample ID number, and sign that they have witnessed the process from start to finish and all was handled appropriately. From this point the testing process is over.

Once the sample is sealed and the responsible party has signed off, the samples will then be shipped to the testing laboratory where the results will later be communicated to NRHA.

Should a responsible party refuse to allow the testing team to extract a sample of plasma from the horse that is being tested, an unsportsmanlike protest will be filed and the horse and rider are both banned from competing at the duration of the event without refund of any fees related to competition. Additionally, the rider's membership may be suspended or revoked, and a fine equal to the highest violation on the medication's penalty chart may be issued. Additionally, if a responsible party agrees the proper sampling protocol was followed but refuses to sign the appropriate documents, an unsportsmanlike protest will be filed.

If a member feels they cannot sign that they witnessed the samples from collection to sealing, they must immediately contact the NRHA steward or show representative to come to the location and report the situation. A statement will be collected from all parties and NRHA will determine if any penalties will be applied.

## **Positive Test Protocol & NRHA Medications Hearing Panel**

Upon receiving the results, if there are any medications violations, the rider and the owner will be notified of the substance found and what the penalty that has been incurred will be. The rider will then have 15 days to respond to the letter to either accept all penalties incurred OR to request to have "Sample B" tested to confirm the analysis. If the rider would like to have "Sample B" tested, the rider will be responsible for all costs incurred, in addition to a "protest of findings" fee of \$250. NRHA will provide the laboratory that will test the sample.

If after the testing of "Sample B," in which the results are the same, the rider may request a hearing before the NRHA Medications Hearing Panel. This request must be submitted in writing within 15 days of the official notification of the "Sample B" results. NRHA will organize the hearing and if the rider is unable to attend, they will forfeit their opportunity to speak with the Hearing Panel and whatever penalties they have incurred will remain.

The NRHA Medications Hearing Panel is comprised of individuals whose names are to remain strictly confidential to the NRHA membership. The individuals who sit on this panel may be veterinarians, NRHA stewards, NRHA professionals, NRHA non professionals, etc. The NRHA Board of Directors approves the Medications Hearing Panel. Should a member of the hearing panel be known by NRHA members for holding that position, he or she will be removed and replaced by the NRHA Board of Directors.

During the hearing, the Medications Hearing Panel will review all available information regarding the disputed test, testing protocol, and all relevant circumstances (as determined by the Medications Hearing Panel) and receive additional documents and explanations from the rider, owner and testing team. After considering such information, based on the totality of the circumstances, the Medications Hearing Panel shall have the discretion to (i) affirm the penalties, (ii) modify the penalties, or (iii) revoke the penalties.

If the rider is dissatisfied with the Medications Hearing Panel's final decision, within 15 days of the notification, they may appeal to the NRHA Executive Committee by submitting in writing their request and paying the \$500 appeals fee.

The NRHA Executive Committee shall consider the information presented to the Medications Hearing Panel and such other information the Executive Committee deems appropriate and shall have the discretion to (i) affirm the

penalties, (ii) modify the penalties, or (iii) revoke the penalties. The decision of the NRHA Executive Committee is final.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

This policy statement may only be changed with a supermajority vote of the NRHA Board of Directors. Further restriction of this policy in regard to the definition of prohibited “banned” substances may only be implemented with a 180- day notice (following approval from the Board) to the entire membership via notice on the NRHA website. Further changes to this policy making it less restrictive in regard to the definition of prohibited “banned” substances may take effect immediately upon approval of the Board. Notice would also be given to the membership via notice on the NRHA website.

If you have questions on medication classification, please call the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Medications Hotline at 1-800-633-2472.