



1. Question: Why is the WPR A implementing the WPR A Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy?

Answer: The WPR A has had a policy governing medications and prohibited substances since the 1990's. The new testing program being implemented updates testing procedures and adopts new hearing procedures. The updated policy reflects a growing concern among WPR A members regarding the use of prohibited substances, and promotes WPR A's commitment to the health, welfare, and safety of horses and WPR A members. In addition, the new testing rules promote standardized testing and hearing procedures that will be applied uniformly at all WPR A approved rodeos and/or World Finals, and prevents rodeo committees or other third parties from imposing testing rules on their own initiative.

2. Question: Who do I contact with questions about particular substances and whether a particular substance might violate the WPR A Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy?

Answer: The WPR A has worked closely with the United States Equestrian Federation in developing the WPR A Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy, and WPR A Members should contact the USEF Equine Drugs and Medications Program with questions regarding how the WPR A Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy Rules might apply to a particular substance. Any questions regarding the interpretation of WPR A's Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy, including the application to particular substances, should be directed to the office of the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program, 956 King Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43212, (800) 633-2472, FAX (614) 299-7706. The WPR A office is not staffed to answer and will not accept calls regarding how the WPR A Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy Rules apply to a particular substance.

3. Question: Why did the WPR A rely on USEF in developing its policy instead of creating specific testing rules for barrel racing?

Answer: USEF has nearly 40 years of experience in developing proven, workable, and fair testing procedures for equestrian events. USEF rules have been adapted and applied for use in other equestrian organizations (such as the AQHA and U.S. Polo Association), and USEF's testing program is widely respected. Relying on USEF's rules also allows WPR A access to USEF veterinarians, technicians, and laboratories, and puts WPR A's testing program on the same playing field as all major equine track organizations and Olympic equestrian sanctioning bodies.

4. Question: How can I find out what substances are not allowed?

Answer: Rule 18.10 defines forbidden substances under WPR A's Equine Medications and Forbidden Substances Policy, and Rule 18.6.15 provides guidance as to specific classes of substances. Members should call the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program at (800) 633-2472, and ask whether a specific substance violates WPR A's Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy. Members do not need to give identifying information when they call the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program, and calls to the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program are not used to initiate investigation of possible rule violations.

5. Question: How does WPRA decide where to test?

Answer: The WPRA Equine Medications Committee will decide which events will be subject to testing, taking into consideration geography and budgetary issues. Once selected, the events subject to testing will not be announced publicly or to WPRA members.

6. Question: Who will do the testing and how long will it take to get results?

Answer: The WPRA Equine Medications Committee will appoint veterinarians to collect samples at WPRA approved rodeos and/or World Finals. Testing data will most often be analyzed at the United States Equestrian Federation Drug Testing Laboratory. Testing results will be made available as soon as practicable, but the availability of testing results will vary greatly depending on the volume of test samples being analyzed by the United States Equestrian Federation Drug Testing Laboratory at any given time. In the event that an initial test is positive, a member may request a subsequent test, which may take additional time for analysis.

7. Question: How is the WPRA financing the testing?

Answer: The WPRA is primarily financing initial testing and analysis of testing data through donated funds (donor names are not confidential), funds from sponsors, and from WPRA general funds. WPRA will use funds provided by any additional sponsors to offset any allocation from WPRA general funds. If an initial test is positive and a member requests a retest, the member is responsible for the costs.

8. Question: Will selection of horses subject to testing be random or will only winners be tested?

Answer: Horses may be chosen randomly, winners may be tested, or both. Decisions regarding this issue will be confidential.

9. Question: What are the penalties for a positive test?

Answer: The range of penalties varies depending on the seriousness of the substance at issue and the surrounding circumstances. Penalties vary by class of substances. Penalties for a positive test of Class 1 or 2 substances are more severe, whereas penalties for Class 3 or 4 substances may or may not be significant at all depending on whether the substance was administered for a therapeutic use, as certified by a licensed veterinarian. Penalties for Class 5 substances will not carry any penalty. For a complete range of penalties, see Rule 18.12, and for guidelines as to how substances are classified, see Rule 18.6.15.

10. What is the penalty if my horse tests positive for steroids?

Answer: Please refer to rule 18.12 in the WPRA Rulebook. Although anabolic and androgenic steroids are presently classified as Class 3 substances, because of the serious nature of steroid misuse, penalties for use of anabolic or androgenic steroids are the same as penalties issued for Class 2 substances.

11. Question: The penalties listed in Rule 18.12 say that violation may include suspensions “up to” a specific period of time or that fines can be “up to” a certain amount, and say that the Equine Medications Committee determines the penalty. What do the words “up to” mean?

Answer: The WPRA Equine Medications Committee has flexibility to decide a penalty that may not exceed whatever penalty is listed in the rules for a specific substance category. Where there are no prior violations and there are no unusual circumstances, the WPRA Equine Medications Committee will issue a penalty that is a fraction of the maximum allowed penalty. In practice, most penalties for Classes 3 & 4 will be much lower than the maximum penalty allowed and will generally consist only of fines. The words “up to” are meant to account for extreme abuse or repeated use of performance enhancing substances, and should generally be considered a ceiling as to possible penalties. Use of Class 5 substances does not have any penalty.

12. Question: Who decides what penalty to issue?

Answer: The WPRA Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy will be administered by the WPRA Equine Medications Committee. The WPRA Board of Directors will appoint five individuals to serve on the WPRA Equine Medications Committee, and the WPRA Board of Directors will appoint one of the members of the Equine Medications Committee to serve as Chairperson. Members of the WPRA Equine Medications Committee, including the Chairperson, will not receive a salary for their duties, and will serve at the pleasure of the board.

When a positive test is reported, the WPRA Equine Medications Committee will consider relevant factors and extenuating circumstances. After due consideration, the WPRA Equine Medications Committee will issue the penalty.

13. Question: If my horse is tested positive, will the test result be subject to publication?

Answer: Penalties issued by the WPRA Equine Medications Committee will not be published. If a member objects to the penalty issued by the WPRA Equine Medications Committee, the WPRA Hearing Board will conduct a hearing. The findings of the WPRA Hearing Board may be published if the WPRA Hearing Board upholds the WPRA Equine Medications Committee’s penalty or otherwise determines that a violation occurred.

14. Question: If my veterinarian prescribes a particular medication that is prohibited, why should I be penalized?

Answer: There are many medications and substances that are appropriate to administer to non-competition horses, but should not be administered to a horse competing in WPRA approved rodeos and/or World Finals. Members should inform veterinarians if a particular horse is subject to the WPRA Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy so that a veterinarian can prescribe appropriate alternatives that do not violate the rules. In many cases, alternative medications can be prescribed in place of prohibited substances, and for many years, veterinarians have found alternatives that do not violate policies enacted by other organizations, such as the United States Equestrian Federation and the American Quarter Horse Association. Where no alternative is available, and a substance is administered for therapeutic use, an Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Report Form must be sent to the WPRA Office whenever a horse is tested within seven (7) business days of testing. The Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Report Form will be considered in determining whether a penalty should be issued.

15. Question: How do I certify a substance is for therapeutic use?

Answer: An Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Report Form must be submitted to the WPRAs office within seven (7) business days of testing if the tested horse is taking or has recently taken a therapeutic substance prescribed by a licensed veterinarian. Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Report Forms must be signed by a licensed veterinarian. (For Lasix and Dantrolene only, members may submit a Lasix and Dantrolene Report Form before competing in a WPRAs approved rodeo and/or World Finals, and will not need to submit the form if testing does occur and the horse has been administered Lasix or Dantrolene.)

16. Question: How do I get the Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Report Form or the Lasix and Dantrolene Report Form?

Answer: The Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Report Form and the Lasix and Dantrolene Report Form are available on the WPRAs website under the Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances section.

17. Question: If a money winning horse tests positive and the Responsible Member is found to have violated the WPRAs Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy, will points earned at the tested rodeo be redistributed?

Answer: No. Penalties will be limited to fines, or possible suspension.

18. Question: What if someone contaminates my horse's feed or water at an event with a prohibited substance and my horse tests positive for a prohibited substance?

Answer: A member who rides a horse that enters a competition arena and tests positive for a prohibited substance is considered a "Responsible Member" and Responsible Members have an obligation to guard each horse during, and sufficiently prior to any WPRAs approved rodeo and/or World Finals, and this obligation includes preventing the administration by anyone of, or a horse's exposure to, a prohibited substance. However, Responsible Members will have the opportunity prior to or during a hearing to present evidence that may show that some other party was responsible for the positive test.

19. Question: Will submission of a medications form from my veterinarian necessarily mean that I am not in violation of a medication rule?

Answer: No. Although the answers are more complicated than can be discussed here, and you should refer to the actual Medication Rules, Class 1 drugs are generally never therapeutic (and therefore should not be prescribed to any horse). Class 2 drugs are rarely therapeutic but, in any event, should not be administered to horses in competition. Therefore, as to Class 1 and 2 drugs, submission of a form will not prevent finding of a violation should that substance be detected in a horse used in competition. As to Class 3, 4, and 5 drugs, depending upon the particular drug or combination of drugs prescribed, dosage, and the reason for its prescription, the veterinarian's judgment will be given significant consideration by the Equine Medications Board (although it is not binding upon decision making) if a form is timely submitted.

20. Question: Can I use supplements without violating the medication rules?

Answer: The Equine Medications Board recognizes that most supplements are not harmful to horses and do not provide a competitive advantage to a horse in competition. On the other hand, use of supplements which contain substances that violate the Equine Drug and Medication Policies may result in a penalty – not because the supplement is used, but rather because the supplement contains a substance that is already prohibited. In some cases, the ingredients contained in a supplement may not be specifically known or adequately described through product labels, and may contain a forbidden substance. Obviously, new forms of supplements are created every day, and therefore the Equine Medications Board will not comment on whether any particular supplement is or is not appropriate.

21. Question: If someone asks to test my horse, how can I be sure that they are official testing personnel?

Answer: Each testing veterinarian will have WPRA documents specifying the competition to be tested, and will further display a photo ID matching the documents, which they will present to you at your request.

22. Question: When does the new WPRA Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy take effect?

Answer: The new testing program took effect on November 1, 2012. However, the WPRA has prohibited the use of stimulants, depressants, tranquilizers, local anesthetics, steroids, and masking drugs, except those administered as a therapeutic measure for the protection of the health of a horse, since 1993. The new WPRA Equine Medications and Prohibited Substances Policy updates testing procedures and adopts new hearing procedures.

23. Question: How long will my horse and I have to wait after a competition if my horse is selected for testing?

Answer: Testing will occur within a reasonable time of a horse competing. WPRA has worked closely with USEF in developing testing procedures, and has consulted with USEF to determine reasonable testing protocols. Based on USEF's experience, WPRA expects that testing should be complete within one hour of a horse competing.

24. Question: What kind of sample will be collected from a horse—urine, blood, or both?

Answer: Technicians will always take blood and may try to collect urine, subject to reasonable time limits.

25. Question: Will Responsible Members be tested?

Answer: No. Only horses that a Responsible Member rides in a competition arena will be tested.