

# NEW MEXICO RACING COMMISSION ESCALATES POSITION ON DRUG ABUSE IN HORSES

July 1, 2016- In what some are describing as a monumental maneuver in the regulation of horse racing, The New Mexico Racing Commission (NMRC), during their monthly meeting on June 23, 2016, voted unanimously to implement a new rule to be used as a tool to fight drug abuse in the horse racing industry. The implementation of this rule by the NMRC and support by the New Mexico Horse Breeders Association, the New Mexico Horsemen's Association, and all track managements in New Mexico, shows the united front the local industry has in battling its issues. Executive Director of the NMRC and University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program graduate, Ismael "Izzy" Trejo said, "In all my time spent regulating horse racing in other jurisdictions, never have I experienced such unity amongst all stakeholders in creating an environment that is best for horse racing and the horse itself".

The new rule's verbiage, written by NMRC Medical Director, Dr. Scot Waterman, will fall under section 15.2.6 D.5. of the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC). The teeth of the rule state that: Any horse that is subject of a positive test report from the official laboratory for a drug in one of the following categories shall be placed immediately on the stewards list;

1. Any drug categorized by the association of racing commissioner's international "uniform classification guidelines for foreign substances and recommended penalties and model rule" incorporated by reference under NMAC 15.2.6.9 as a Penalty Class A substance
2. Any prohibited anabolic androgenic steroid or any anabolic androgenic steroid in excess of the permitted concentrations listed pursuant to NMAC 15.2.6.9
3. Clenbuterol or other beta-agonist drugs with significant anabolic effects that are not currently Penalty Class A drugs.
4. Other drugs designed to promote growth or muscle, including but not limited to growth hormones, somatotropins, insulin growth factors and gene modifying agents.
5. Cobalt in excess of allowable concentrations specified, pursuant to NMAC 15.2.6.9.

The new rule mandates that the horse stays on the stewards list for a minimum of 60 days. After the 60 days is up, the owner or trainer of the horse must present the horse to the test barn for the official veterinarian to obtain a blood sample for analysis. If the sample comes back positive for any of the prohibited substances previously mentioned, the horse shall remain on the stewards list for an additional 60 days. If the analysis comes back negative, the horse will be removed from the stewards list and be permitted to enter and run in races once again.

The new rule will have a positive effect on different facets of the industry, most importantly the welfare of the horse and the gambler. Dr. Waterman, also a graduate of the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program stated, "Those that wager on horse racing must be confident that the form of the horse is based on its true athletic ability and not based on the use of performance enhancing substances. The placement of the horse on the stewards list will remove the horse from the racing population for a period of time necessary to ensure the effect of the drug is no longer present by the time the horse is allowed to race again, thereby protecting the betting public and other participants in the race".

The new rule went into effect at approximately 3pm on Wednesday June 29, 2016.

*(The New Mexico Racing Commission is a State Government Agency whose mission is to provide regulation in an equitable manner to New Mexico's pari-mutuel horse racing industry; to protect the interest of wagering patrons and the State of New Mexico in a manner which promotes a climate of economic prosperity for horsemen, horse breeders and track managements)*