

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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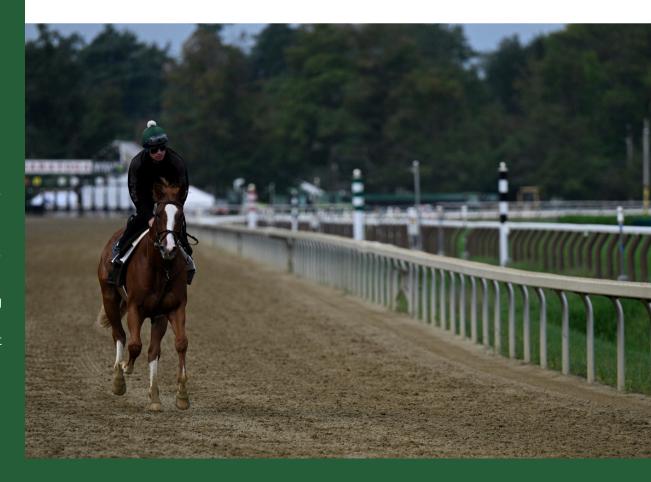


HIWUNews



Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU)

Cover photo: EquiSport Photos



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# About DFSI & HIWU

# **Drug Free Sport** INTERNATIONAL™



Drug Free Sport International (DFSI) is a global leader in the anti-doping industry, with more than 25 years of administering comprehensive anti-doping solutions for amateur and professional athletic organizations worldwide. In September 2018, DFSI merged with International Doping Tests & Management (IDTM), a Swedish-based provider of anti-doping services, thus furthering DFSI's mission to service its clients globally. Together, DFSI and IDTM operate in more than 100 countries and provide professional anti-doping solutions for many high-profile sport organizations, including MLB, the NFL, the NBA, NASCAR, the PGA Tour, the LPGA, UFC, the International Tennis Federation, World Athletics, the NCAA, and more than 300 colleges, universities, and amateur athletics organizations globally.

In May 2022, DFSI and the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) announced their partnership for DFSI to serve as the independent administrator of HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program. Consequently, DFSI established the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU), a new division within the organization that is dedicated to enforcing Thoroughbred racing's first national anti-doping and medication control program.



# Leadership

# Meet Our Leadership Team



**BEN MOSIER** Executive Director



KATE MITTELSTADT Chief of Operations



MICHELLE PUJALS, JD General Counsel



MARY SCOLLAY, DVM Chief of Science

# **HIWU Advisory Council**

**Jonathan Taylor,** KC (Chairman) Partner, Bird & Bird

Larry Bowers, Ph.D. Chief Science Officer Emeritus, United States Anti-Doping Agency

Larry Bramlage, DVM, MS, DACVS Shareholder Emeritus, Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital

#### Sonja Keating, JD

General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer, United States Equestrian Federation

#### **Günter Younger**

Director of Intelligence & Investigations, World Anti-Doping Agency



# Letter from Leadership

If 2023 was the year of laying the foundation for the ADMC Program, then 2024 was the year of enhancing and refining that Program to set HIWU up for success in the years to come. Our goals were focused on taking what we learned in year one to implement modifications that resulted in a more effective Program for all participants that serves the best interests of Thoroughbred racing. These advancements could be seen in every area of HIWU's operations, and they facilitated the key to successes both internally and externally: *collaboration*.

HIWU's Operations, Investigations, and Science departments are in constant communication to develop plans for intelligence-based testing and investigative strategies. The unique expertise offered by each department supports a comprehensive approach to addressing anti-doping and medication control that would not be possible if each group operated independently.

Similarly, our team and the Program benefit immensely from the insights of our "boots-on-the-ground" colleagues at facilities covered by HISA, including regulatory veterinarians, stewards, investigators, Sample Collection Personnel, and other racing officials. These industry partners share key intelligence with us and perform critical responsibilities on behalf of HIWU. Running the Program would not be possible without them, and we thank them for their partnerships.

In response to feedback received through extensive engagement with many industry participants, HIWU simplified our educational materials to educate Covered Persons about the ADMC Program. These resources cut down potentially complex concepts into digestible content. The most prominent of these resources was our stable hygiene campaign, with posters and booklets shipped to 45 racetracks, training centers, and horsemen's groups.

When it comes to education, HIWU's goal is to empower Covered Persons to be able to comply with the ADMC Program and to avoid inadvertent violations. Our success in this area was evidenced by a consistently low rate of positive tests for Controlled Medications and a decrease in the number of findings for substances such as metformin and methamphetamine after launching our stable hygiene campaign in mid-2024.

However, HIWU's organization-wide achievements are best reflected in HISA's 2024 metrics, which revealed a recordlow fatality rate in Thoroughbred racing. We are proud of our contributions to making the sport safer for horses and their riders. We are confident that our consistent enforcement of medication rules, combined with an investigative presence nationwide, are helping to deter behavior that may compromise equine safety and welfare.

While HIWU is proud of our 2024 accomplishments, in 2025 we will be introducing additional advancements to serve the industry. For example, HISA Equine Analytical Laboratory (HEAL) accreditation standards took effect on January 1, 2025, establishing a robust quality assurance program to promote harmonization, as well as coordinated research and collaboration efforts among Program laboratories.

Program efficiencies continue to be a strong focus heading into 2025, including IT enhancements for sample collection and results reporting systems. This is yet another area in which industry feedback has been crucial in making these systems work better for everyone.

This year and every year, we will leverage the resources at our disposal from within HIWU and from the industry. We are committed to implementing effective testing strategies in tandem with targeted investigations to identify individuals whose conduct is harmful to horses and the entire sport. The data proves that HIWU is already making a difference, and we are positioned to further our positive impact in 2025.

Sincerely,

Ben Mosier Executive Director HIWU

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Chris Guinty, JD President & CEO DFSI

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Jonathan Taylor, KC Chairman HIWU Advisory Council

"HIWU has been an *integral part of establishing consistent standards and reliable testing* for our industry since being implemented by law in 2023. It would be *hard to ignore* our continuing improved safety record and feel there isn't a direct correlation to this important work."

# -**Jena Antonucci** Belmont Stakes-Winning Trainer

# Operations

With a sound infrastructure established in 2023, the HIWU Operations team committed to upgrading processes and systems across all facets of the department to enhance service to industry stakeholders while implementing an effective testing strategy nationwide. These changes were complemented by ongoing support initiatives for Sample Collection Personnel (SCP), who are the backbone of testing operations.

## Sample Collection Personnel Training

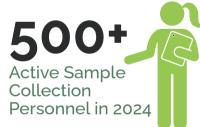
All SCP under the ADMC Program must be certified by HIWU and trained to conduct sample collections in accordance with ADMC Program Rules.



HIWU conducted virtual and in-person training for nearly 200 new SCP, with more than 500 SCP conducting testing at tracks across the country during 2024.

HIWU's support does not end once certification is complete. The Operations team made more than 35 on-site visits to racetracks to support test barn personnel with meetings and high-profile events (e.g.,

Triple Crown races), and to reinforce best practices and uniformity in the delivery of the HIWU Testing Program.



## Sample Collection Personnel Support Line

The HIWU Sample Collection Personnel Support Line is a critical resource for SCP with questions or concerns when preparing for or conducting testing.

The Support Line, available 20 hours a day, seven days a week, is staffed entirely by specialized HIWU personnel during early morning hours and weekends to reflect the unique needs of SCP during these periods. These HIWU staff members combine extensive knowledge of sample collection procedures under the ADMC Program with decades of experience working in test barns.

"I have nothing but good things to say about HIWU's Operations team. From the beginning, they have been really great to work with as far as communication and quickly and efficiently addressing any questions or concerns we have in relation to sample collection procedures. They have made us feel really supported."

> - Katie Mancini-Wales, Test Barn Supervisor, Tampa Bay Downs

# **Technological Advancements**

First launched in 2023, the HIWU Collection app digitalizes chain-of-custody processes and promotes efficiency in sample collection. An updated version was released in February 2024, with changes focused on streamlining the app to ease use for both SCP and horsemen. For example, the latest iteration enables SCP to access additional relevant data while completing a Sample Collection Session (SCS). In addition, it now integrates documentation for hair sample collections.

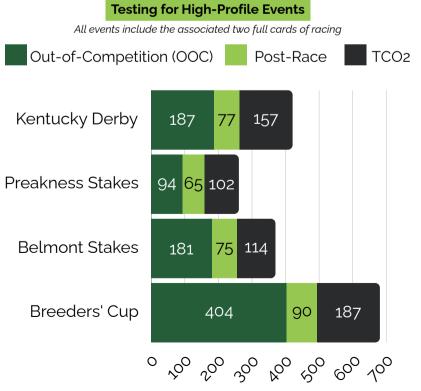
# Testing Program Strategy and Developments

An effective Test Distribution Plan is always evolving, and the HIWU Operations team made meaningful advancements in the first full year of implementation of the ADMC Program. Extensive collaboration efforts with the HIWU Science and Investigations teams on a daily basis are crucial for developing a well-rounded testing strategy. Partnerships also continued with "boots-on-theground" racing officials, e.g., regulatory veterinarians, stewards, and investigators, plus engagement with equine medical directors. HIWU has made a concerted effort to engage with and encourage input from these individuals, who offer valuable insights to inform target testing and investigations.

Furthermore, in response to test results and intelligence received, HIWU built SCP resources and testing plans to support the collection of triple the number of hair samples as compared to 2023. Hair samples are analyzed to detect Banned Substances such as clenbuterol.

# Strategy for High-Profile Events

The strategies deployed for high-profile races, including the Triple Crown, Breeders' Cup, and graded stakes, are the result of coordination and expertise among HIWU, HISA, race organizers, state racing commissions, Program laboratories, and SCP. Importantly, collaboration is required with other covered racetracks around the country where potential qualifying horses and their trainers may compete and train leading up to these events.



While HIWU deploys team members to support on-site testing and/or investigative operations for the day or week of a large event, their presence is just one component of HIWU's ongoing preparations in advance of these races. These include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying and testing horses throughout the respective prep races by conducting Post-Race and Out-of-Competition Testing.
- Evaluating the test history of potential horses competing in high-profile events.
- Expanding Post-Race Testing for stakes races, including those with Kentucky Derby points and/or Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" status.
- Working extensively with international racing jurisdictions to coordinate testing for potential competitors from outside the United States, including:
  - Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
    - British Horseracing Authority
    - France Galop
    - Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board
    - Japan Racing Association
- Administering unannounced Out-of-Competition Testing on contenders throughout their stay at host tracks. This strategy deviates from historical testing plans that limited on-site Out-of-Competition Testing to the day that a horse arrived at the competition venue.
- Employing the most expansive analytical technologies available for Pre- and Post-Race Samples collected, targeted to identify efforts intended to enhance performance and protect horse welfare. Whenever possible, those analyses are expedited by Program laboratories.

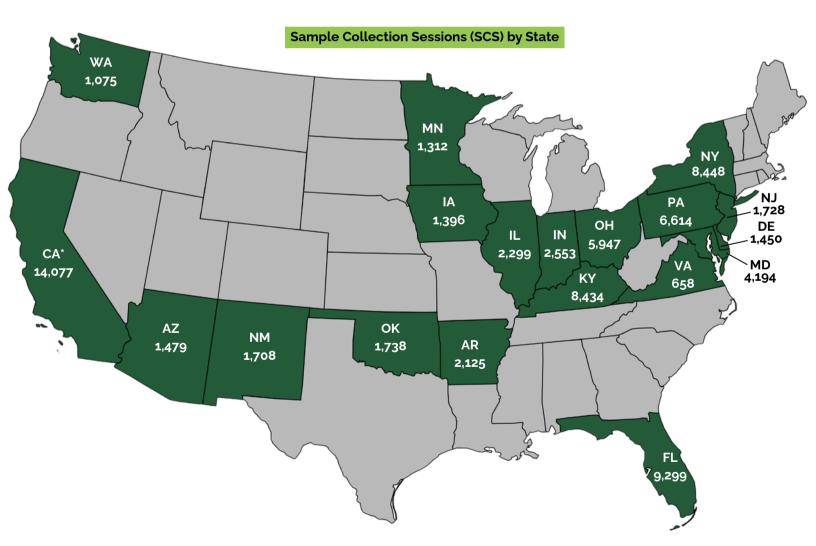
In 2024, there were 408 graded stakes races under the ADMC program, and they were subject to additional scrutiny by HIWU via TCO2, Post-Race, and Out-of-Competition Testing.

The testing that occurs related to major events is complementary to HIWU's comprehensive Program throughout the entire year. These efforts build a foundation for the integrity of racing nationwide. One Sample Collection Session is counted each time a Covered Horse is selected for testing, for any Test Type.

One Sample Collection Session may include the collection of a urine, blood, and/or hair sample.

76,534 Total Sample Collection Sessions

26,585 Total Unique Covered Horses Tested



\*The California Horse Racing Board requested and funded TCO2 Testing for 50% of all entries at racetracks in Southern California (Del Mar and Santa Anita).

State	Location	Post- Race	TCO2	000	Vets' List	Clearance	Post- Work	Total SCS per Track	Total SCS per State	Total Ra per Sta
AR	Oaklawn Park	1,205	634	130	156	0	0	2,125	2,125	651
AZ	Turf Paradise	992	239	110	135	1	2	1,479	1,479	747
	Del Mar	1,084	1,984	270	59	0	5	3,402		
	Ferndale	84	35	0	2	0	0	121		
	Fresno	176	45	1	8	0	0	230		
	Golden Gate	1,026	392	38	141	0	2	1,599	1	
	Los Alamitos	617	785	234	144	0	4	1,784	1	
CA	Pleasanton	501	158	30	105	0	2	796	14,077	3,334
	Sacramento	77	37	0	4	0	0	118	4	
	Santa Anita	1,828	3,392	259	294	0	17	5,790	_	
	Santa Rosa	117	49	0	1	0	0	167	1	
	Training Centers/Other	0	0	7	63	0	0	70		
	State Total by Test Type	5,510	6,877	839	821	0	30	-		
DE	Delaware Park	998	219	121	108	1	3	1,450	1,450	651
	Gulfstream Park	3,697	2,433	407	228	0	2	6,767		
FL	Tampa Bay Downs	1,357	555	137	191	0	3	2,243	0.300	2,782
	Training Centers/Other	0	0	131	156	0	2	289	9,299	2,702
	State Total by Test Type	5,054	2,988	675	575	0	7	-		
IA	Prairie Meadows	971	254	131	39	0	1	1,396	1,396	829
	FanDuel/Fairmount	646	185	108	86	0	0	1,025		
۱L	Hawthorne	820	229	106	118	1	0	1,274	2,299	1,030
	State Total by Test Type	1,466	414	214	204	1	0	-		
IN	Horseshoe Indianapolis	1,681	534	160	175	0	3	2,553	2,553	1,262
	Churchill Downs	1,968	993	243	145	0	0	3.349		
	Ellis Park	501	246	53	22	0	0	822		
	Keeneland	775	424	124	129	2	1	1,455		2,063
KY	Kentucky Downs	173	152	0	0	0	0	325	8,434	
	Turfway Park	1,307	564	115	157	0	1	2,144		
	Training Centers/Other	0	0	128	211	0	0	339		
	State Total by Test Type	4,724	2,379	663	664	2	2	-		
	Laurel Park	2,561	585	112	166	0	8	3,432		1,491
	Pimlico	214	136	84	32	0	2	468	1	
MD	Timonium	120	24	0	0	0	0	144	4,194	
	Training Centers/Other	0	0	70	80	0	0	150		
	State Total by Test Type	2,895	745	266	278	0	10	-		
MN	Canterbury	814	329	123	46	0	0	1,312	1,312	464
	Far Hills	2	0	0	0	0	0	2		
	Meadowlands	109	47	0	0	0	0	156		
NJ	Monmouth Park	929	385	145	105	0	6	1,570	1,/28	574
	State Total by Test Type	1,040	432	145	105	0	6	-		
	Downs at Albuquerque	320	114	57	69	0	0	560		
	Ruidoso	65	28	34	12	0	0	139	1	
NM	Sunland Park	404	130	67	78	0	0	679	1,708	1,684
	Zia Park	225	66	18	20	0	1	330	]	
	State Total by Test Type	1,014	338	176	179	0	1	-	1.450 9.299 1.396 2.299 2.553 8.434 4.194 4.194 1.312 1.728	
	Aqueduct	2,645	1,350	5	0	0	0	4,000		
	Belmont Park	0	0	384	301	0	15	700		
NY	Finger Lakes	1,349	373	176	99	0	4	2,001	8,448	2,597
	Saratoga	905	542	205	91	0	4	1,747		
	State Total by Test Type	4,899	2,265	770	491	0	23	-		
	Belterra Park	1,245	420	97	142	0	0	1,904		
он	Mahoning Valley	1,333	397	81	123	0	1	1,935	5017	2,459
511	Thistledown	1,384	469	120	135	0	0	2,108	5.947	2,408
	State Total by Test Type	3,962	1,286	298	400	0	1	-		
	Remington Park	879	234	77	80	0	0	1,270		
ОК	Will Rogers Downs	339	62	37	30	0	0	468	1,738	1,704
	State Total by Test Type	1,218	296	114	110	0	0	-		
	Parx	2,333	631	293	272	1	4	3,534	6,614	
PA	Penn National	1,352	396	194	137	0	0	2,079		2,861
PA	Presque Isle Downs	785	38	109	68	0	1	1,001		2,801
	State Total by Test Type	4,470	1,065	596	477	1	5	-		
VA	Colonial Downs	431	157	40	30	0	0	658	658	287
WA	Emerald Downs	661	214	102	98	0	0	1,075	1,075	462

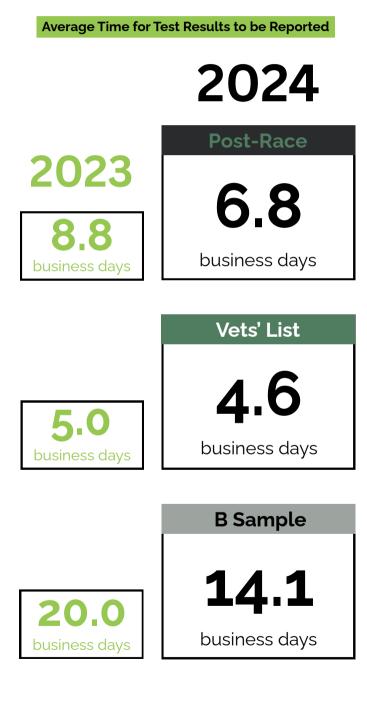
# **Results Management**

# **Results Reporting**

The average reporting time for all test types decreased to be well within the contractual requirements established with Program laboratories. This was possible due to an array of factors, including refined integration between HIWU's Results Management Database and the Program laboratories' Laboratory Information Management Systems.

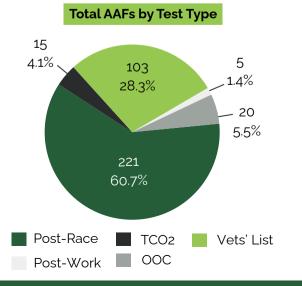
Specific to Vets' List Testing, HIWU recognizes the importance of reporting these results in a timely manner so that trainers can enter their horses. HIWU developed a new application to expedite the reporting of Vets' List results to regulatory veterinarians to facilitate the return of horses to competition. Negative Vets' List results are generally reviewed by HIWU and reported to the relevant stakeholders within one business day of receipt.

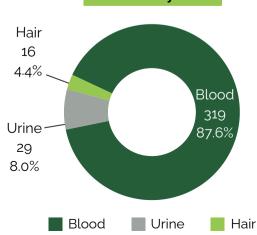




Adverse Analytical Findings by Substance Classification									
Banned		CM Metho	bd	CM Class A		CM Class B		CM Class C	
Altrenogest*	1	TCO2	15	Valerenic Acid	1	Acepromazine	44	Acetaminophen	3
Boldenone	1					Albuterol	2	Aminocaproic Acid	3
Clenbuterol	23					Caffeine	5	Betamethasone	7
Cobalt	3					Cannabidiol	10	Cetirizine	2
Diflunisal	1					Capsaicin	13	Cimetidine	1
Diisopropylamine	3					Gabapentin	4	Dantrolene	10
Formestane/4- Hydroxytestosterone	2					Ipratropium	1	Detomidine	1
Metformin	10					Lidocaine	7	Dexamethasone	40
Methamphetamine	12					Mepivacaine	1	Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO)	5
Oxymorphone/Oxycodone	1					Nabumetone	2	Firocoxib	1
Testosterone	2					Pyrilamine	1	Flunixin	11
						Sotalol	1	Furosemide	1
						Tramadol	4	Glycopyrrolate	3
*Under the proposed changes t						Xylazine	3	Methylprednisolone	2
the ADMC Program Rules the are before the Federal Trad								Methocarbamol	26
Commission (FTC), altrenoges	st							Omeprazole	15
will be reclassified as of Controlled Medication (CM								Pentoxifylline	1
Substance.								Phenylbutazone	49
								Tranexamic Acid	1
								Triamcinolone Acetonide	9
59		15		1		98		191	

# 364 Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) in 2024



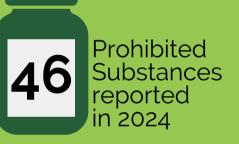


### Total AAFs by Matrix

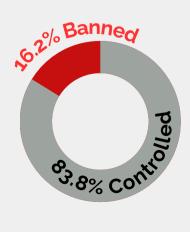
State	Location	Total AAFs	Equine Anti- Doping (EAD)	Equine Controlled Medication (ECM)
AR	Oaklawn Park	7	1	6
AZ	Turf Paradise	14	0	14
	Del Mar	5	1	4
	Ferndale	1	0	1
	Fresno	1	0	1
	Golden Gate	11	0	11
CA	Los Alamitos	10	3	7
	Pleasanton	11	0	11
	Santa Anita	14	0	14
	Santa Rosa	1	0	1
	Training Centers/Other	2	0	2
DE	Delaware Park	9	4	5
	Gulfstream Park	26	6	20
FL	Tampa Bay Downs	18	1	17
	Training Centers/Other	4	0	4
IA	Prairie Meadows		0	
IA	FanDuel/Fairmount	7		7
IL	Hawthorne	7	3	6
IN		7	1	-
	Horseshoe Indianapolis	4	0	4
2	Churchill Downs Ellis Park	22	10	12
	Keeneland	3	1	2
KY		7	0	7
	Turfway Park	5	0	5
	Training Centers/Other	4	0	4
2	Laurel Park	16	5	11
MD	Pimlico	1	0	1
	Timonium	1	0	1
	Training Centers/Other	1	0	1
MN	Canterbury	3	0	3
NJ	Monmouth Park	4	0	4
	Downs at Albuquerque	9	1	8
NM	Sunland Park	6	1	5
	Zia Park	14	0	14
	Aqueduct	7	1	6
NY	Belmont Park	6	0	6
	Finger Lakes	12	1	11
	Saratoga	3	1	2
	Belterra Park	12	8	4
ОН	Mahoning Valley	9	3	6
	Thistledown	7	0	7
ОК	Remington Park	5	0	5
	Will Rogers Downs	4	2	2
	Parx	21	3	18
PA	Penn National	9	1	8
	Presque Isle Downs	3	0	3
VA	Colonial Downs	2	0	2
WA	Emerald Downs	9	1	8
	Total	364	59	305

# 0.48%

of all 2024 Sample Collection Sessions resulted in an AAF

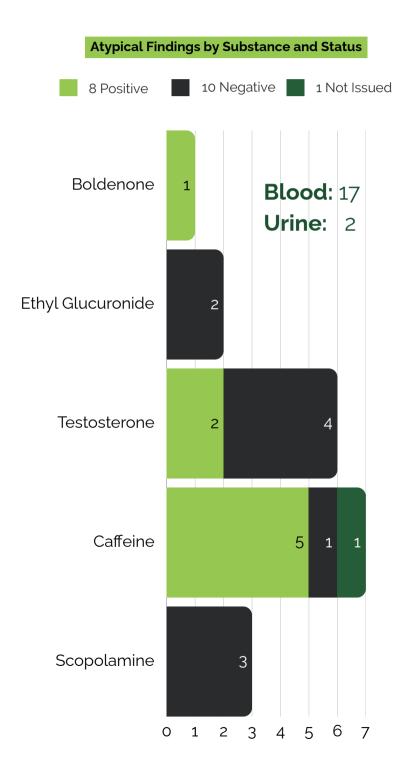


**Classifications of AAFs** 



# **Atypical Findings Policy**

The Atypical Findings Policy continues to be successful at identifying positive tests stemming from environmental contamination or a substance that is naturally occurring in the specific horse. **The majority of cases falling under the Atypical Findings Policy were deemed Negative and therefore were never publicized**.



**19** Atypical Findings

for **5** Prohibited Substances

# Banned

- Boldenone
- Ethyl Glucuronide
- Testosterone

# Controlled

- Caffeine
- Scopolamine

## En·vi·ron·men·tal Con·tam·i·na·tion

/en<sub>1</sub>vī(ə)rn<sup>1</sup>men(t)l/ /kən<sub>1</sub>tamə<sup>1</sup>nāSH(ə)n/

A positive test resulting from a substance that:

**1.** Arises from plants traditionally grazed or harvested as equine feed or;

**2.** Is present in equine feed or bedding due to contamination during cultivation, processing, treatment, storage, or transportation.

Definition per HISA Rules

A positive test stemming from a tainted supplement or feed additive does not constitute environmental contamination.

# Legal & Adjudications

Throughout the year, HIWU's Legal team navigated enforcement updates to ADMC Program Rules while strengthening communication channels with attorneys for Covered Persons and industry organizations affected by ADMC Program cases. Through open dialogue with Covered Persons, legal counsel, and other industry participants, HIWU continues to respond to feedback and adjust processes where possible to ensure that the ADMC Program is applied fairly and consistently.

State	EAD Notices Filed	EAD Charges Filed	ECM Notices Filed	ECM Charges Filed
AR	2	1	6	6
AZ	0	0	14	13
CA	7	7	51	50
DE	6	6	6	6
FL	10	8	44	42
IA	0	0	11	11
IL	5	3	12	11
IN	1	1	4	4
KY	14	9	32	31
MD	5	5	14	13
MN	0	0	4	2
NJ	0	0	4	4
NM	2	2	22	21
NY	3	3	29	29
ОН	14	14	19	19
OK	2	1	8	7
PA	4	4	28	24
VA	0	0	2	2
WA	1	1	8	8
Total	76	65	318	303

### Notices and Charges Filed by State

# **Stayed Cases**

A multitude of changes to benefit horsemen are awaiting approval before the FTC. This includes, but is not limited to, lessened sanctions for Vets' List violations. In fairness to horsemen, cases that would be positively affected by the proposed rules concerning potential periods of Ineligibility are stayed pending FTC action.

# 68 Stayed Cases

Equine Anti-Doping



EAD matters are stayed due to new proposed ADMC Program Rules relating to human substances of abuse, the proposed reclassification of altrenogest from a Banned Substance to a Controlled Medication, or the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium's (RMTC) review concerning the Banned Substance metformin.

Equine Controlled Medication



ECM matters are stayed due to new proposed ADMC Program Rules that would affect whether the Covered Persons at issue would be subject to a period of Ineligibility for the violation.

Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit | Legal & Adjudications

## **Notices Served**

Total Notices Filed	394	
Total EAD Notices Filed	76	19.3%
Presence ( <i>Rule 3212</i> )	55	72.4%
Use ( <i>Rule 3213</i> )	3	3.9%
Period of Ineligibility Status (Rule 3229)	2	2.6%
Possession (Rule 3214(a))	12	15.8%
Other ( <i>Rule 3216/Rule 3230</i> )	4	5.3%
Total ECM Notices Filed	318	80.7%
Presence ( <i>Rule 3312</i> )	275	86.5%
Use ( <i>Rule 3313</i> )	17	5.4%
TCO2 (Rule 3313/4221)	15	4.7%
Possession (Rule 3315(b))	2	0.6%
Disciplinary Proceedings (Rule 3510)	7	2.2%
Period of Ineligibility Status (Rule 3329)	2	0.6%

As of March 15, 2025, the average resolution time for cases originating in 2024 was

'The average resolution time is calculated from the date of sample

collection/violation to the date of

### **Charges Served**

Total Charges Filed	368	
Total EAD Charges Filed	65	17.7%
Presence (Rule 3212)	44	67.7%
Use (Rule 3213)	3	4.6%
Period of Ineligibility Status (Rule 3229)	2	3.1%
Possession (Rule 3214(a))	12	18.5%
Other ( <i>Rule 3216/Rule 3230</i> )	4	6.2%
Total ECM Charges Filed	303	82.3%
Presence ( <i>Rule 3312</i> )	267	88.1%
Use (Rule 3313)	17	5.6%
TCO2 (Rule 3313/4221)	11	3.6%
Possession (Rule 3315(b))	2	0.7%
Disciplinary Proceedings (Rule 3510)	5	1.7%
Period of Ineligibility Status (Rule 3329)	1	0.3%

# 93.4% of Notices served resulted in Charges

	Anti-l	Doping	Controlled Medication**		
Results of Charges Filed	Total	%	Total	%	
Admission	14	21.5%	149	49.2%	
Decision*** (AB, IAP, HIWU)	12	18.5%	88	29.0%	
Withdrawal	0	0%	8	2.6%	
Stayed	22	33.8%	46	15.2%	
Pending	17	26.2%	12	4.0%	
Total	65	100.0%	303	100.0%	

\*'One of these resolved matters was withdrawn in connection with HIWU's investigation of the University of Kentucky Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, and three were withdrawn as a result of HIWU's implementation of a uniform analytical method for TCO2 detection.

\*\*\*Case decisions ranged from findings of No Significant Fault or Negligence (with lesser sanctions imposed) to the imposition of the default sanctions (i.e., maximum associated sanctions). Full decisions can be found on the HIWU website.

Controlled Medication Decisions Issued by Internal Adjudication Panel (IAP)

resolution.





Two cases were settled with HIWU/HISA before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decision was issuec





Admissions:62Decisions (IAP, HIWU):13Withdrawn Charges:4Pending:26Stayed:0Total:105

Violations involving intra-articular injections were transitioned to HISA's Racetrack Safety Program on July 8, 2024.

## General Limitations on Provisional Suspensions

Following a resolution proposed by HISA's Horsemen's Advisory Group and supported by the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc., HISA's Board of Directors requested in November 2024 that HIWU only impose a Provisional Suspension under the following circumstances:

- A Covered Person has more than one horse test positive for the same Banned Substance.
- A barn search leads to the discovery of the same Banned Substance for which the Covered Person is being charged under the ADMC program.
- The alleged violation presents a substantial risk to the integrity of racing and/or the welfare of horses.

While this change limits circumstances under which Provisional Suspensions are imposed, it does not affect ADMC Program proceedings with respect to potentially affected cases, including potential periods of Ineligibility.



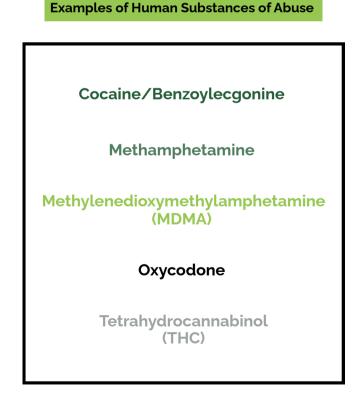
"As a member of the Internal Adjudication Panel, I've been **impressed with the HIWU team's preparedness and professionalism**. When I have a hearing, everything is properly researched and presented, which makes my job easier."

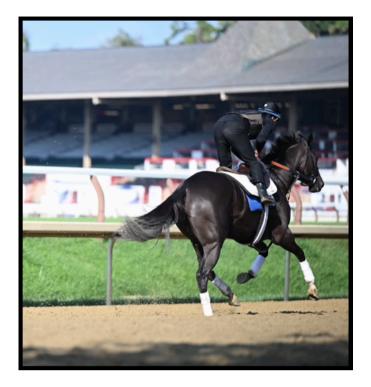
> - Barbara Borden, Chief Steward & Senior Vice President of Racing, Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation

# Human Substances of Abuse

HISA has submitted updated proposed rules to the FTC that would cap the period of Ineligibility related to human substances of abuse to 60 days if HIWU determines that it has a reasonable basis to conclude that, based upon the facts and circumstances of a case, the finding was likely the result of inadvertent transfer (as opposed to intentional human administration). As per the proposed rule, the 60-day sanction may be reduced if the Responsible Person provides evidence of the source of the AAF and/or preventative measures taken by the Responsible Person before the date of the AAF. However, if HIWU has evidence that a human substance of abuse is intentionally administered, the two-year default sanction would still apply.

As a result of the proposed changes, HIWU stayed pending ADMC Program cases for human substances of abuse whose potential periods of Ineligibility would be positively affected by the rule updates. Before the change in the aforementioned policy relating to Provisional Suspensions, several Covered Persons served reduced Provisional Suspensions, ranging from 15 to 60 days, for AAFs for human substances of abuse.





# Metformin

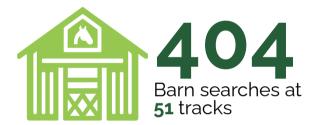
In June 2024, HISA's Board of Directors requested that HIWU defer all Provisional Suspensions related to potential Presence violations (i.e., positive tests) for metformin, given the limited scientific information available regarding its use in horses. Consequently, HISA and HIWU asked the RMTC's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to conduct a review of the available science relating to metformin. Following the RMTC's Board of Directors' approval, any conclusions drawn and guidance produced regarding the SAC's review will be shared with HISA's ADMC Committee. Once the RMTC SAC completes its work, the ADMC Committee and the HISA Board will determine whether any rule changes regarding the controls on metformin should be submitted to the FTC for approval.

While HISA and HIWU await the findings of the RTMC's review, metformin remains on the Prohibited Substances List. The deferral of Provisional Suspensions is only applicable to the Responsible Person; Covered Horses that test positive for metformin are still subject to a Provisional Suspension. Since HISA's announcement, any new Presence cases for metformin have been stayed following the results of B Sample analysis or the waiver of B Sample analysis.

# Investigations

The HIWU Investigations Unit is composed of HIWU investigators and state racing commission/racetrack investigators in order to oversee potential HISA violations nationwide. HIWU's partnerships with the personnel in each state maximize the reach and effectiveness of investigative efforts.

HIWU investigators increased the number of racetrack visits in 2024. These trips were important not only for facilitating barn searches, but also for talking to Covered Persons and racing officials to establish a consistent presence by the HIWU team. This initiative helped result in **more than 400 barn searches at 51 racetracks in 20 states**.



As a result of findings from these searches and/or other observations of potential violations, 23 ADMC Program cases were initiated.

Key components of the Investigation Unit's operations are the anonymous whistleblower platforms in partnership with RealResponse. More than 200 tips were received in 2024, and HIWU responded to all within 24 hours of receipt, weekends and holidays included. More than 80% of those tips proved to be pertinent to an investigation or warranted follow-up for potential new leads and/or cases.

RealResponse's unique features have made it a critical tool for the Investigations Unit. Namely, HIWU investigators can chat with anonymous whistleblowers in real time, maximizing information sharing. The platform also includes the ability to categorize tips, enabling the team to identify trends and focus resources on potential violations that have been the subject of multiple tips.









**Possession cases** filed from barn searches

**118** Products recovered from

searches and submitted to laboratories

**488** 

Investigative inquiries for ADMC & Racetrack Safety Programs

Tips received through the tip line





**84.5%** of tips received through the anonymous tip line

warranted follow-up

27 Investigators

# Laboratory Expert Group



Anthony William Butch, Ph.D



David Tiffany



Eric R. Welsh, Ph.D.



In 2024, the HIWU Science team focused on preparing for the launch of HISA Equine Analytical Laboratory (HEAL) accreditation while continuing to streamline current processes and work with other departments to develop effective testing strategies.

## **Cooperation Among Program Laboratories**



The benefits of the uniformity of the ADMC Program are especially apparent when it comes to laboratory collaboration. HIWU hosts weekly meetings with the Program laboratories' directors, during which they report trends in their findings and coordinate research efforts to identify novel

substances and potential threats. Among the positive outcomes of this engagement was the organization of administration studies for ethanol and TCO2 Testing. As a result of the review of TCO2 Testing, HIWU mandated the use of specific instrumentation and methodology across all Program laboratories.

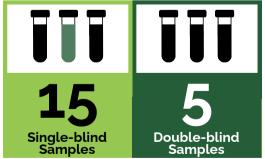
Continuing with the theme of uniformity, Program laboratories moved forward with harmonizing the format of the Laboratory Documentation Packages they provide to HIWU. These packages contain information about A or B Sample analysis, and all are reviewed by the Science department before being forwarded to the Legal team in connection with pending cases.

## **HEAL Accreditation**

Preparing for HEAL accreditation has been a priority for HIWU since the inception of the ADMC Program. This accreditation program establishes a robust External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) that includes single-blind testing, double-blind testing, and a passed sample exchange program whereby samples that are reported as negative in one laboratory are sent to other laboratories to be re-analyzed.

In advance of HEAL's implementation on January 1, 2025, an

# Each year, the EQAS will consist of a minimum of:



independent Laboratory Expert Group was established to help oversee the accreditation process and program, as required by the ADMC Program Rules. These three individuals offer a broad range of relevant expertise, including human and equine anti-doping, laboratory operations, and quality assurance management. They will meet regularly to evaluate the performance of Program laboratories, in addition to providing HIWU with advice and recommendations within the overall management of HEAL accreditation and the Equine Laboratory Standards.

Going into 2025, **four Program laboratories were approved for Probationary HEAL accreditation**, and the Science team completed the necessary preparations to enable auditing by groups recognized by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.

# **Changes to Program Laboratories**

When the year began, HIWU was utilizing six laboratories. However, two laboratories – the University of Kentucky Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory (UK-EACL) and the Analytical Forensic Testing Laboratory at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC Lab) – were removed from the Program in February and September, respectively.

HIWU halted sample distribution to UK-EACL in February 2024. The following month, the RMTC suspended its accreditation of UK-EACL. As per Program Rules, all Program laboratories were required to be accredited by the RMTC in the interim period prior to the implementation of HEAL accreditation standards.

HISA and HIWU opened an investigation into the performance of UK-EACL following the discovery of intentional misrepresentations of sample analysis. Key findings of the six-month investigation included:

- UK-EACL's failure to comply with mandatory testing specifications and instructions, including its standard operating procedures and sample analysis methods.
- UK-EACL misrepresented both its ability to test for specific substances, including erythropoietin (EPO), and the completion of analysis for certain substances on specific samples.

• At the direction of the UK-EACL laboratory director, the laboratory failed to perform confirmatory analysis on 91 samples with initial screening results suspicious for the presence of a Prohibited Substance and therefore requiring follow-up, instead reporting the samples as Negative.

As a result of these findings, HIWU re-analyzed and reconciled all remaining potentially affected samples, and HISA sought repayment from the University of Kentucky for the laboratory's non-compliant services.

Under new leadership, UK-EACL'S RTMC accreditation was reinstated by the end of 2024, and the laboratory will be eligible to apply for HEAL accreditation in 2025.

On September 3, 2024, the RMTC notified HISA and HIWU that it had suspended the UIC Lab's accreditation. Consequently, HIWU immediately diverted samples collected in Illinois to other Program laboratories. In early 2025, the RMTC revoked accreditation of the UIC Lab.

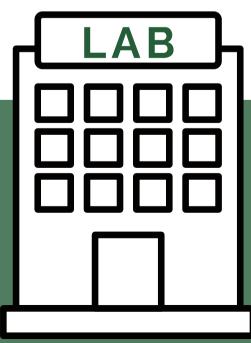
# ADMC Program Laboratories as of January 1, 2025

Analytical Toxicology Laboratory at the Ohio Department of Agriculture

> Industrial Laboratories Denver, CO

Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at the University of California-Davis

Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Laboratory at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, operated by the University of Pennsylvania



# Education & Outreach

Education and outreach efforts in 2024 were focused on developing resources to promote ADMC Program compliance and addressing rules that represented points of confusion for Covered Persons. HIWU also prioritized opportunities to attend events with industry participants to build relationships, educate industry members, and receive feedback.

# **Industry Outreach**

### **Conferences and Symposiums**

- American National Standards Institute National Accreditation Board Scheme Owners Meeting (laboratory accreditation organization)
- Association of Racing Commissioners International Conference
- Global Symposium on Racing
- International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Conference
- IFHA Global Summit on Equine Safety and Technology
- International Meeting of the Association of Racing Chemists
- Organization of Racing Investigators Conference
- RMTC RegVet Continuing Education Event
- Sports Integrity & Investigations Event
- The Jockey Club Round Table Conference
- University of Kentucky Equine Law Conference
- Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit

### Stakeholder Meetings

- HISA Executive Roundtable on Sports Safety
- HISA Town Hall
- Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
- RMTC Board of Directors
- Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.
- Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
- Thoroughbred Racing Associations

#### Media Briefings and Features

- BloodHorse
- Breeders' Cup Safety Briefing
- FanDuel TV
- Kentucky Derby Safety Briefing
- NBC
- Past the Wire Podcast
- RailTalk Podcast
- Thoroughbred Daily News

#### Committees

- Breeders' Cup Racing and Nominations Committee
- European Horseracing Scientific Liaison Committee
- HISA ADMC Committee
- HISA Horsemen's Advisory Group
- HISA Next Generation Advisory Group
- IFHA Advisory Council on Prohibited Substances and Practices
- IFHA Technical Advisory Committee
- RMTC Executive Committee
- RMTC Horseracing Testing Laboratory Committee

### Education

- Godolphin Flying Start Program
- Racing Officials Accreditation Program
- University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program



## Resources

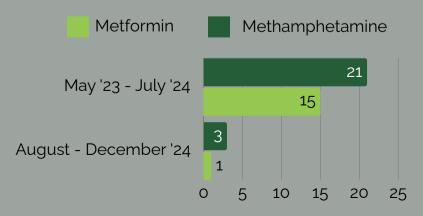
To maximize the impact of education initiatives, HIWU focused on the production of short videos in English and Spanish as supplements to written materials. Covering complex scientific topics such as picograms and testing levels, these videos aimed to simplify important concepts that are relevant to Covered Persons.



In 2024, HIWU published **a dozen new educational resources** on topics of interest. The most prominent of these resources was a stable hygiene campaign through posters and handbooks, which were **shipped to 45 racetracks, training centers, and horsemen's groups.** The guides were also converted into animated videos. These resources were created in response to industry concerns about the cleanliness of barns and the consequent risk this posed for the unintentional transfer of Prohibited Substances to Covered Horses.

Following the launch of the stable hygiene campaign in August, HIWU saw a **significant decrease in the rate of positive tests for both human substances of abuse and metformin.** 

### History of Metformin and Methamphetamine Findings





In February 2024, HIWU launched an updated website that featured the same substance lookup tool that had previously been introduced on the HIWU app, as well as refreshed display pages for viewing ADMC Program cases. Pending and resolved ADMC Program cases can be filtered by various criteria, including name of the Covered Person, Prohibited Substance, and whether an individual has multiple violations.



# International Engagement



HIWU was granted an affiliate membership for the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities in 2024. This has facilitated cooperation and learning opportunities from racing

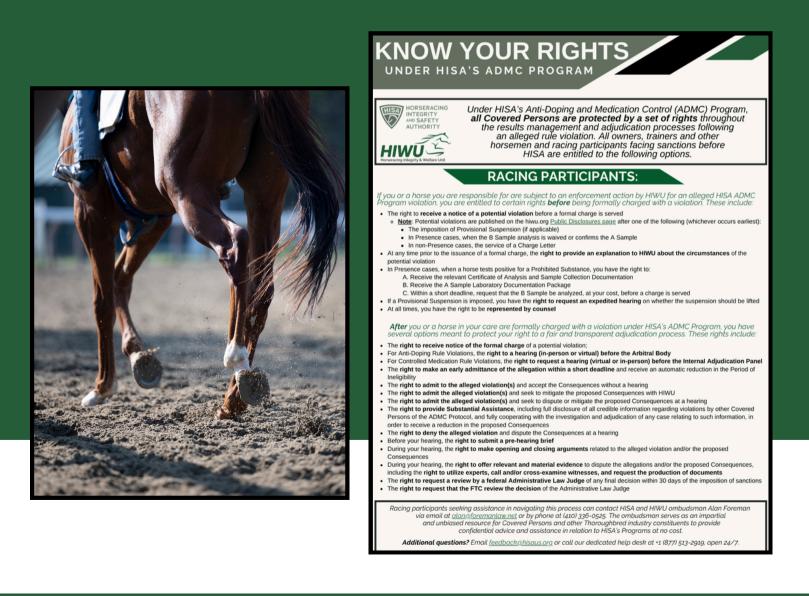
authorities and laboratories around the world to augment testing strategy in the United States and observe anti-doping trends domestically and abroad.

## Ombudsman

Alan Foreman, the chairman and chief executive officer of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Associations, Inc., continued his important role as ombudsman on behalf of HISA and HIWU. In addition to providing free, confidential advice and assistance to Covered Persons regarding HISA's Programs, he also relays feedback from industry constituents to HISA and/or HIWU leadership.

**The volume of inquiries received declined compared to 2023, suggesting a greater understanding of, and compliance with, HISA's rules.** While the majority of calls concerned potential Controlled Medication Rule Violations, Foreman also fielded questions regarding potential Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

With calls coming in multiple times a week and spanning nearly every state covered by HISA, Foreman was effective in helping Covered Persons to understand the adjudication processes under the ADMC Program. This included, but was not limited to, communications from HIWU's Legal team, strategies for investigating the source of a Prohibited Substance in a sample, options for resolving an ADMC Program case, and referrals to qualified attorneys. He subsequently took observations and feedback from these interactions with HISA and HIWU and shared recommendations to improve rules and processes.



# Glossary

Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program (ADMC) Program: HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program.

Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF): a result from a laboratory reporting the detection of the presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers (or evidence of the use of a Prohibited Method) in a sample, i.e., a "positive test;" an Adverse Analytical Finding may be pursued as a Presence violation under the ADMC Program Rules.

**Anti-Doping Rule Violation:** violations of the ADMC Program that involve Banned Substances or Banned Methods, as well as other defined violations of the Protocol.

**Arbitral Body (AB):** an individual or individuals independently selected by JAMS (the Program's Arbitral Body administrator) to hear and decide Anti-Doping Rule Violation cases.

**A Sample:** the initial portion of a sample analyzed for the presence of Prohibited Substances or evidence of the use of a Prohibited Method.

**Atypical Finding:** a result from a laboratory reporting the detection of the presence of a Prohibited Substance in a sample that is an endogenous substance; one of the substances on a list of "Specified Substances," which pose a higher risk of being in a horse's sample due to contamination (as defined in the ADMC Program); or a novel substance not on the Prohibited List; Atypical Findings trigger an investigation by HIWU.

**Banned Substances/Methods:** substances or methods prohibited at all times to be administered to Covered Horses, possessed, or trafficked.

**B Sample:** the split portion of a sample analyzed to confirm the presence of a Prohibited Substance; testing is not conducted on the B Sample unless requested and paid for by a Covered Person.

**Clearance Testing:** testing for a horse at the request of a Covered Person to determine if specific Controlled Medication Substances have cleared the horse's system.

**Controlled Medication Rule Violation:** violations of the ADMC Program that involve Controlled Medication Substances or Methods.

**Controlled Medication Substances:** substances with therapeutic uses for horses but that, with certain exceptions, may not be present in a Post-Race, Vets' List, or Post-Work Sample; they may be present in Out-of-Competition Samples.

**Covered Horse:** a Thoroughbred that is subject to the rules of the ADMC Program; a Thoroughbred becomes a Covered Horse upon completion of its first Timed and Reported Workout (i.e., breeze) or the date of a horse's entry or nomination to a Covered Horserace (a Thoroughbred race in a state in which HISA is in effect).

**Covered Person:** those who are engaged in the care, treatment, training, or racing of Covered Horses; includes, but is not limited to, trainers and their staff, veterinarians, owners, and jockeys.

**Double-Blind Sample:** a quality assurance sample that is indistinguishable from routine samples; the Program laboratory is not aware of the contents of the sample or that it is a quality assurance sample authorized by HIWU.

**External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS):** a program for quality assessment of laboratory performance, which includes the periodic distribution of urine, blood, hair, or other samples on behalf of HIWU to Program laboratories in order to be analyzed for the presence or absence of Prohibited Substances.

**Equine Anti-Doping Charge (EAD)/Equine Controlled Medication Charge (ECM):** a Charge is served by HIWU when HIWU has made the determination that it is moving forward with a case against a Responsible Person; it is not served until after HIWU has received and reviewed the explanation and any other information submitted by the Responsible Person (if they have done so).

**EAD Notice/ECM Notice:** a Notice served by HIWU that is the first communication with the Responsible Person; it sets forth the facts with respect to a possible violation of the ADMC Program and requests an explanation from the Responsible Person.

**HISA Equine Analytical Laboratory (HEAL) Accreditation:** laboratory accreditation standards set forth by HISA; implemented by HIWU on January 1, 2025.

**Internal Adjudication Panel (IAP):** impartial member(s) selected by HISA and HIWU to hear and decide cases of alleged Controlled Medication Rule Violations; IAP members, which may include state stewards, are selected for their equine regulatory experience.

**Nominated Person:** a Covered Person designated by a Responsible Person to oversee sample collection for a Covered Horse on behalf of the Responsible Person.

**Out-of-Competition (OOC) Sample/Testing:** sample collected/testing conducted at any time other than for Post-Race, Vets' List, TCO2, or Post-Work Testing; only Banned Substances are regulated in Out-of-Competition Testing.

**Possession Violation:** when a Covered Person maintains physical or constructive possession of a Prohibited Substance or Method in violation of the ADMC Program Rules.

**Post-Race Sample/Testing:** sample collected/testing conducted following a race; no Banned Substances or Controlled Medication Substances (with the exception of furosemide in non-stakes races for horses that are age three or older) may be present in a Post-Race Sample.

Presence Violation: a violation of the ADMC Program resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding, i.e., a "positive test."

**Prohibited Substances/Prohibited List:** all Banned Substances or Controlled Medication Substances as defined by HISA.

**Provisional Suspension:** an initial period of ineligibility for a Covered Person or Covered Horse while a case is pending; Provisionally Suspended individuals cannot participate in Timed and Reported Workouts or Covered Horseraces; Covered Persons may request a Provisional Hearing to seek to lift their Provisional Suspension.

Responsible Person: usually a horse's trainer; may be the horse's owner if the horse does not have a trainer.

**Sample Collection Personnel (SCP):** individuals certified and trained by HIWU to conduct collection of blood, urine, or hair samples; includes, but is not limited to, test barn staff and veterinarians.

**Sample Collection Session (SCS):** the time from when the initial contact is made to notify a Responsible Person or Nominated Person of a Covered Horse's selection for testing, continuing until the Covered Horse has provided a sample and is released from the testing location; Sample Collection Sessions may include urine, blood, and/or hair collection.

**Single-Blind Sample:** a quality assurance sample in which the Program laboratory is aware that the sample is a quality assurance sample authorized by HIWU but is not aware of the contents of the sample.

**TCO2 Sample/Testing:** blood sample collected on race day to test for the use or administration of an alkalinizing agent, i.e., "milkshaking."

Test Distribution Plan: HIWU's intelligence-based strategy for selecting horses for testing.

**Vets' List Sample/Testing:** sample collected/testing conducted following a Vets' List Workout in order for the horse to be released from the Vets' List; Vets' List Testing is subject to the same regulations as Post-Race Testing, except for furosemide (since furosemide is always permitted in a Vets' List Sample).



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