



State of Indiana Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Eric Holcomb, Governor

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IHRC Advisory Notice to Horsemen and IHRC Licensed Veterinarians

May 4, 2023

Nebulizer Restrictions on Thoroughbred Racehorses

Please be aware that HISA's Racetrack Safety Committee (HISA Safety rules are currently active) has classified a nebulizer as a medical therapeutic device. As such, if the nebulizer requires a power source (battery or plug), **the use is prohibited within 48 hours of a race** pursuant to HISA rules 2271(f), regardless of the substance being nebulized. See HISA rule below.

Rules Concerning Pin Firing, Freeze Firing and Blistering

The Following Are Prohibited Practices After July 1, 2022:

- (a) Use of physical or veterinary procedures to mask the effects or signs of injury so as to allow training or racing to the detriment of the Horse's health and welfare.
- (b) Use of extracorporeal shock wave therapy in a manner that may desensitize any limb structures during racing or training.
- (c) Surgical or chemical neurectomy to cause desensitization of musculoskeletal structures associated with the limbs.
- † (d) Thermocautery including but not limited to **pin firing and freeze firing**, or application of any substance to cause vesiculation or blistering of the skin, or a **counter-irritant** effect.
- (e) Use of a device to deliver an electrical shock to the Horse including but not limited to cattle prods and batteries.
- * (f) Use of electrical medical therapeutic devices including magnetic wave therapy, laser, electro-magnetic blankets, boots, electro-shock, or any other electrical devices that may produce an analgesic effect within 48 hours of a timed work or of the start of the published post time for which a Horse is scheduled to race.

† Notes:

- Pin firing and freeze firing of the shins (dorsal surface of the third metacarpal/metatarsal bones) are prohibited beginning July 1, 2022.
- Horses within the foal crop of 2022 or later will not be allowed to race if they have pin fired or freeze fired shins.

* Notes:

- 'Analgesic effect' means a pain-masking effect that would compromise the ability to determine a Horse's soundness. Therefore, those modalities may be used for other purposes.
- 'Training activity' means a published high-speed work.



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Please note the following:

1. This HISA rule does NOT apply to quarter horses. All quarter horses will still abide by current IHRC rules regarding nebulizing (see 71 IAC 8.5-1-1.5).
2. IHRC licensed Massage Therapists are prohibited from nebulizing horses on association grounds.

71 IAC 8.5-1-1.5-Medication

Authority: IC 4-31-3-9 Affected: IC 4-31-2; IC 4-31-12

Sec. 1.5. (a) No horse participating in a race or entered in a race shall carry in its body any foreign substance as defined in 71 IAC 1.5 or IC 4-31-2, except as provided for in this rule. (b) No substance, foreign or otherwise, shall be administered to a horse entered to race by: (1) injection; (2) jugging; (3) oral administration; (4) tube; (5) rectal infusion or suppository; (6) inhalation; or (7) any other means; within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled post time for the first race except furosemide as provided for in this rule. The prohibitions in this section include, but are not limited to, injection or jugging of vitamins, electrolyte solutions, and amino acid solutions. The prohibition also includes, but is not limited to, the topical, oral, or nasal administration of compounds, such as Traileze, Vapol, Vicks vapor-rub, wind-aid, exhale ease, or containing methylsalicylate, camphor, potassium iodide, or products containing "caine" derivatives or dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO).

(c) Substances or metabolites thereof which are contained in equine feed or feed supplements that do not contain pharmacodynamic or chemotherapeutic agents are not considered foreign substances if consumed in the course of normal dietary intake (eating and drinking).

(d) The prohibition in subsection (b) notwithstanding, the use of nebulizers are permitted on an entered horse within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled post time for the horse's race until the horse's arrival in the paddock provided their use is restricted to water and saline solutions only. (e) Topical dressings such as leg paints, liniments, ointments, salves, hoof dressings, and antiseptics, which do not contain anesthetics or a pharmacodynamic or a chemotherapeutic agent, may be administered at any time prior to a horse's arrival in the paddock. (Indiana Horse Racing Commission; 71 IAC 8.5-1-1.5; emergency rule filed Apr 3, 2013, 10:37 a.m.: 20130410-IR071130133ERA; emergency rule filed May 7, 2014, 2:24 p.m.: 20140514-IR-071140142ERA; readopted filed Oct 7, 2020, 2:27 p.m.: 20201104-IR-071200406RFA)

For questions, please contact Dr. Kerry Peterson, IHRC Equine Medical Director.
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