

NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Statement of Policy

DATE SUBMITTED	July 16, 2011	POLICY NUMBER	11-07-27
DATE APPROVED	July 17, 2011	CATEGORY	
DATE REVISED	February 11, 2017	DATE EFFECTIVE	January 1, 2012
SUPERSEDED BY		DATE REVIEWED	

ANIMAL WELFARE AND MEDICATIONS POLICY (Excluding European Events)

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 rule violations by the individual(s).

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND PENALTIES

The Medications Hearing Panel is approved by the Board of Directors.

The Medications Hearing Panel may use the following disciplinary chart for NRHA Animal Welfare and Medications violations at events held outside of Europe:

Drug/Substance	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
Controlled Substances (365-day period)	Warning	\$250 Fine Possible probation pending Hearing Panel review.	\$500 Fine Possible suspension pending Hearing Panel review.
Forbidden Substances that are FDA-approved for use in the horse (365-day period)	Warning	\$500 Fine Possible probation pending Hearing Panel review.	\$1,000 Fine Possible suspension and/or disqualification pending Hearing Panel review.
Forbidden Substances that are NOT FDA-approved for use in the horse (3-year period)	\$2,500 Fine Possible probation pending Hearing Panel review.	\$5,000 Fine Possible suspension pending Hearing Panel review.	\$10,000 Fine Possible suspension and/or disqualification pending Hearing Panel review.

For purposes of this chart, “controlled” is equivalent to FEI’s term “controlled” and “forbidden” is equivalent to “banned.”

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. Warnings will be sent to the rider of the horse (person responsible) with notification going to the owner of the horse. The number of offenses counts across all levels of substances to determine the penalty (ex. A rider’s first offense is with a controlled substance and the second offense is with a forbidden substance that is not FDA-approved for use in the horse. The second offense penalty, in this case, is a \$5,000 fine with possible suspension).

EVENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

a. To provide funds for research, inspection, and enforcement of rules regarding use of medications and drugs, each NRHA approved event in the United States and Canada, except where prohibited by law, must assess the exhibitors a fee of \$7 for each horse in the event. 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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 and urine samples. Suitable facilities means 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.

e. 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.

ADMINISTRATION

This policy statement may only be changed with a supermajority vote of the NRHA Board of Directors only. Further restriction of this policy in regard to the definition of forbidden 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 forbidden 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 medications, dosages, withdrawal times, or the like, please call the US Equestrian Medications Hotline at 1-800-633-2472.