Medication Policy.
Effective 1 October 2017

The following Amendment is to replace part (c) of the Zero Tolerance Policy page 28 NCHA Rule Book

(c) NCHA Medication Policy

In order to remain true to the ideals of fair play and for the preservation of horse welfare, it is appropriate to state the NCHA Rules relating to the welfare of horses in competition and, in particular, the use of medications. As with other horse sports the welfare of the horse is of paramount importance.

• Any horses competing or entered for sale at events managed by the NCHA may be tested for medication residues.

• At other shows holding more than one age event, at least one horse from any age event may be tested. Random testing of horses at any NCHA managed show may be undertaken without notification.

• All testing will be by blood sample with the blood testing providing a determination of medication levels i.e. not a screening test. Tamper proof testing kits will be used. Collection of samples for testing is to be undertaken by a veterinarian under instruction from the NCHA management. Sampling will be taken immediately on exit of the nominated horse/s from the competition arena, or in the case of sale horses, immediately prior to entry into, or exit from the sale arena

• A registered laboratory will perform the test.

• No person shall cause to be administered internally or externally to a horse, either before or during an approved event, any medication or substance which could affect its performance or appearance at that event, except for those permitted therapeutic medications, the use of which is provided for in the Permitted Medication clause• Any horse found to have a prohibited medication residue will be referred to the NCHA Medication Control Committee. This Committee is to consist of six persons, being NCHA general manager, two NCHA directors, two NCHA endorsed veterinarians, one NCHA member trainer.

- The NCHA Medication Control Committee will determine whether an offence has been committed and what penalty shall be imposed. The cost of medication tests will be borne by the NCHA except where such a test is deemed to be a Rule violation, in which case the costs will be borne by the owner. Where inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse is found to have occurred or any medication administration is in violation of the Rule, the Board of Directors shall be notified.

- Within the definition of this Rule, certain substances may be used without restriction (Unrestricted Class). These include

    - antibiotics, except procaine penicillin
    - antifungals, antiprotozoals, anthelmintics
    - anti-ulcer medications
    - amino acids, vitamins, electrolytes
    - topical ointments and creams not containing corticosteroids, analgesics, local anaesthetics or irritants
    - preventative or restorative oral joint therapeutics
    - altrenogest
    - acepromazine (not permitted in sale horses)

Any other medications that may be administered to horses prior to entry to a competition or sale must be given time to clear metabolites from the horse's system, i.e. they must not be administered inside the effective withholding time.

PERMITTED MEDICATIONS

Permitted Medications, and only those listed, may be administered by a licensed veterinarian, trainer or individual acting under the owner's direction, to a horse prior to or during competition or sale within the defined limitations. Notification for the use of these medications is not mandatory. The responsibility rests with the aforesaid person/s to comply with the dosage limits for these medications. Failure to comply with the stated dose and frequency of administration will result in a high risk of exceeding therapeutic dose levels. All horses whose medication levels exceed maximum permitted plasma concentrations will be referred to the NCHA Medication Control Committee for review and disciplinary action.

1. Medication must not be given within 6 hours of competition.

2. Only one non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medication is permitted. It is a violation to concurrently medicate with more than one NSAID.

3. The following are Permitted Medications:

PHENYLBUTAZONE - the maximum permitted plasma concentration is 15.0 micrograms per millilitre. Each 24 hours, no more than 4.45 milligrams per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 2.0 grams, which equals 2 x 1.0 gram sachets, 10 x 200 milligram units of paste, or 10 mls of 200mg/ml injectable solution. Where phenylbutazone is orally administered, half the maximum daily dose should be given at 12 hour intervals. Phenylbutazone should not be given for more than 5 consecutive days.

FLUNIXIN MEGLUMINE - the maximum permitted plasma concentration is 1.0 microgram per millilitre. Each 24 hours, no more than 1.0 milligram per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 500 milligrams, which equals 10 mls of 50mg/ml injectable solution. Flunixin should not be given for more than 5 consecutive days.

KETOPROFEN - the maximum permitted plasma concentration is 0.25 micrograms per millilitre. Each 24 hours, no more than 2.0 milligrams per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 1.0 gram, which equals 10 mls of a 100 mg/ml injectable solution. Ketoprofen should not be given for more than 5 consecutive days.

MELOXICAM – Each 24 hours no more than 1.2 milligrams per kg bodyweight should be administered. For a 450 kg horse, the maximum daily dose is 5.4 gram, which equals 9 mls of 30 milligram units oral paste or 13.5 mls of a 20 mg/ml injectable solution. Where meloxicam is orally administered, half the maximum daily dose should be given at 12 hour intervals.

EMERGENCY MEDICATION

Any acutely ill or injured horse may be treated by a licensed veterinarian with the approval of show management, for any condition that would not prevent the horse from competing following treatment.

THE TREATED HORSE MUST BE KEPT OUT OF COMPETITION NOT LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER MEDICATION

A veterinary report must be supplied by the attending veterinarian and lodged with show management within twelve hours of attendance to the horse. The report must include the following details:

- Identification of the horse
- Date and time of treatment
- Diagnosis of the injury or illness
- Identification of all medications used, including dose, route of administration, date and time of last dose.
- Identification and signature of attending veterinarian.

The report is to be countersigned by show management with time of lodgement recorded on the report. Any horse under medical treatment for an acute illness or injury prior to or during competition may be refused further entry on NCHA veterinary advice.

Application for any horse treated under emergency medication provisions to compete within the 24 hour exclusion period may be made to show management. The decision to permit re-entry into competition will be made by show management on review of the veterinary report and assessment of the status of the horse.

Should a medication test identify levels exceeding permissible plasma concentration or inconsistent with stated medication usage the owner of the horse will be required to prove that the medication was administered in a therapeutic dosage and no closer than 24 hours prior to competition.

These same permissions apply to horses requiring emergency treatment prior to an NCHA sale where the horse is deemed suitable to enter the sale ring following veterinary attendance.

The following does not form part of the NCHA Rules but is supplementary information for members to assist in understanding the implementation and implications of the Rules amendments.

<u>CHANGES TO THE MEDICATION RULE</u> - What this means to you.

There is no restriction to the medication of horses prior to competition so long as all residues from those medications are cleared from the horse prior to competition. These same rules apply to sale horses. Owners and trainers should consult with a suitably qualified veterinarian if there are concerns about the administration of any medication in the lead time before competition.

There are no restrictions to the administration of a group of substances deemed to be non-performance enhancing or behaviour modifying. These (Unrestricted Class) substances are listed in the Rule book and may be used without penalty.

The NCHA Rules allow for the controlled administration of a limited range of Permitted Medications with strict dosage and timing of medication in advance of entry to competition or sale. These medications MUST NOT BE ADMINISTERED WITHIN 6 HOURS OF COMPETITION OR SALE. Failure to comply with the stated dosage and frequency of administration will result in a high risk of exceeding permissible plasma concentration. Medication forms are not required for the administration of Permitted Medications. It is the obligation of the owner / trainer to comply with the dosage limits for these Permitted Medications.

Horses may be treated whilst at an event or sale under emergency provisions for acute injuries or illnesses by a veterinarian. Any horse treated under this provision must have a full veterinary report submitted to the show/sale management within 12 hours of treatment, containing information as defined in the Rules. IF A HORSE IS TREATED UNDER THE EMERGENCY PROVISION IT CANNOT COMPETE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF MEDICATION.

You are in violation of the Rules if:

- You present a horse for competition or sale with detectable medication residues for any medication not allowed as per the NCHA rules.
- You medicate any horse with a Permitted Medication within 6 hours of competition or sale.
- You medicate a horse with a Permitted Medication at dosages that exceed the maximum recommended levels, even if treatment is outside the 6 hours prior to competition or sale, and plasma concentrations exceed maximum permissible levels at the time of sampling.
- Your horse is treated under emergency provisions and is then presented for competition within 24 hours of medication.
- The veterinary report for the treatment of a horse under emergency provisions does not support medication residues found in swabs subsequently taken from the horse.