



June 26, 2014

NEW YORK STATE GAMING COMMISSION AND NYRA ISSUE ENHANCED SECURITY PROTOCOLS FOR HORSES RUNNING IN 2 STAKES RACES ON STARS AND STRIPES DAY

The New York State Gaming Commission and The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) today announced enhanced security protocols for horses running in the two \$1 million-plus Grade 1 stakes races on Stars and Stripes Day, July 5, 2014.

All horses potentially participating in the Belmont Oaks Invitational (\$1 million) and the Belmont Derby Invitational (\$1.25 million) will be subject to out-of-competition testing and must be on the grounds by noon on July 2. Trainers of horses participating in the races must provide complete veterinary records for three days leading up to the race. Additionally, horses will be monitored at all times from their arrival at the track leading up to the races.

“These protocols have proven to be effective security measures for high stakes races,” said Commission Executive Director Robert Williams. “They will ensure a level playing field and ensure the integrity and transparency of the sport in New York State.”

“These enhanced protocols represent good stewardship and sound medical practice for horses competing in these important races,” said New York Equine Medical Director Scott E. Palmer. “They are thoughtful and deliberate actions that enhance equine health and safety.”

“NYRA strives to meet safety expectations as part of our commitment to maintaining the integrity of the sport on and off the track,” said Chris Kay, President and CEO of The New York Racing Association, Inc. “The enhanced security protocols on Stars and Stripes Day reflect our ongoing focus on this continuous improvement process.”

“The Jockey Club continues to advocate for medication reform and transparency and applauds the New York State Gaming Commission and The New York Racing Association Inc. for all the security protocols that have been put in place for Stars and Stripes Day at Belmont Park,” said James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. “We would encourage all jurisdictions to follow New York’s lead and in addition, consider disclosing veterinary records for up to two weeks prior to the event in order to reflect the longer-acting therapeutic medications as well.”

“Horsemen are very serious about maintaining a level playing field for everyone who participates in our races,” said Rick Violette, Jr., president of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. “As we have in the past, we fully support the security protocols established by the New York State Gaming Commission.”

The Commission and NYRA have mandated the following protocols and steps for horses participating in the two Grade 1 stakes races on July 5:

- The Commission will take out-of-competition blood samples of horses competing in the races and send them to the N.Y.S. Equine Drug Testing and Research Program at Morrisville State College for immediate testing. The Commission will coordinate with other jurisdictions to obtain out-of-competition samples from horses that are not stabled in New York State.
- Horses participating in the races must be on the grounds by Noon on Wednesday, July 2 before the race. Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the Stewards.
- Horses will be monitored at all times by additional security personnel.
- Security personnel will monitor all treatments performed by veterinarians. All containers for medications administered will be retained by the Commission for possible testing.
- A full daily veterinarian's record of all medications and treatments given to horses participating in these races from Noon on July 2 until July 5 will be provided to the Commission. Any changes to treatment must be disclosed to the Commission. If medications and treatment records are not provided to the Commission prior to treatment, veterinarians will not be permitted to treat the horse until the issue is resolved. The Commission will post these records on its Web site each day leading up to the races.
- Entry-exit logs will be maintained by additional security from NYRA and the Commission. All persons – including veterinarians, trainers, assistant trainers, farriers, owners or other connections – on entering the stall, or engaging in contact with the horse or performing any service for the horse, must have a valid Commission license on their person. Such persons will be logged in by security personnel with the reason for their visit. Routine stall and horse maintenance by identified grooms and staff will be monitored but will be exempt from logging.
- All equipment, feed, hay bales, etc. are subject to administrative searches and checks.
- As is current policy, Lasix administration will take place in the horses' own stalls by a NYRA veterinarian. Syringes will be preserved by the Commission for possible testing.
- On July 4, no veterinarians will treat horses without first making an appointment with Commission investigators.
- The Commission, in conjunction with NYRA, will appoint a single 24-hour point person each day for trainers and connections to contact in case of an emergency.
- On July 5, no treatment will be permitted (beyond Lasix for specifically designated horses) unless it is for an emergency or as approved by the Stewards.
- On July 5, horses participating will be required to be in the Assembly barn between 45 minutes to 1 hour before post time for TC02 sampling. They will then be escorted with security to the paddock.
- Horses in the races will receive priority for paddock schooling with security present.

The Commission and NYRA will provide educational materials on the protocols to horsepersons, connections, veterinarians, security and all appropriate parties prior to and upon arrival at the track.

About the New York Racing Association, Inc.

Created more than 50 years ago so that New York State could share in the boom in racing that followed World War II, The New York Racing Association, Inc., holds the exclusive right to conduct racing at Aqueduct, Belmont Park, and Saratoga until 2033. NYRA tracks are the cornerstone of the state's Thoroughbred business, which contributes more than \$2 billion annually to New York State's urban, suburban and rural economy. NYRA's Mission is "Meeting the highest standards in Thoroughbred racing and equine safety."

About the New York State Gaming Commission

The New York State Gaming Commission regulates all aspects of gaming and gambling activity in the state, including horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering, class III Indian gaming, video lottery terminal facilities at race tracks, the state lottery and charitable gaming.

###