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## **NEW YORK STATE GAMING COMMISSION AND NYRA ISSUE ENHANCED SECURITY PROTOCOLS FOR HORSES RUNNING IN THE JOCKEY CLUB GOLD CUP INVITATIONAL**

The New York State Gaming Commission and The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA) today announced enhanced security protocols for horses running in the Jockey Club Gold Cup Invitational on September 27 at Belmont Park.

All horses participating in the \$1 million Jockey Club Gold Cup will be subject to out-of-competition testing and must be on the grounds by noon September 24. Trainers of horses participating in the race must provide complete veterinary records for three days leading up to the race. Additionally, horses will be monitored at all times during the 72-hour period leading up to the race.

"New York continues to set the standard in protecting race horses and riders," said Commission Executive Director Robert Williams. "These protocols bring increased transparency and accountability to the sport, which are inherent priorities of the Commission."

"These measures underscore New York's ongoing commitment to the safety and welfare of the race horse," said New York Equine Medical Director Dr. Scott E. Palmer. "We will continue to advocate for these animals and implement measures and best practices that create a safe environment for equine athletes."

"The New York Racing Association takes the health and safety of our equine athletes and their jockeys very seriously. In concert with the State of New York and over the course of the past two years, we have collectively implemented nationally-recognized reforms which are further preserving the integrity of our racing operations. The sensible steps announced today continue this important progress," stated Christopher Kay, CEO and President of The New York Racing Association.

"The New York State Gaming Commission and the New York Racing Association, Inc. continue to set a high standard in the area of security protocols," said James L. Gagliano, president and chief operating officer of The Jockey Club. "We commend both organizations for their commitment and we strongly encourage other jurisdictions and racetrack operators to implement similar integrity safeguards."

"New York's horsemen continue to offer their support and cooperation with the enhanced security measures to ensure a level playing field at the NYRA tracks and to boost the public's confidence in the integrity of racing in New York," said Rick Violette Jr., president of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

The Commission and NYRA have mandated the following protocols and steps for horses participating in the Jockey Club Gold Cup Invitational:

- The Commission will take out-of-competition blood samples of horses competing in the race 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 must be on the grounds by noon on September 24. Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the Stewards.
- Horses will be monitored at all times by additional security personnel for 72 hours leading up to the race.
- 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 the race from noon September 24 until September 27 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 race.
- 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 the day before the Jockey Club Gold Cup Invitational, 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 the day of the Jockey Club Gold Cup Invitational, no treatment will be permitted (beyond Lasix for specifically designated horses) unless it is for an emergency or as approved by the Stewards.
- On race day, horses participating in the Jockey Club Gold Cup Invitational 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 race 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.

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