EMHF

European & Mediterranean

Horseracing Federation

**EMHF POSITION ON PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

At its General Assembly in Sweden on May 29th, the EMHF developed policy on Prohibited Substances which would apply throughout the European and Mediterranean region.

The EMHF is committed to the effective prohibition and detection of major doping agents,(ie those substances, including anabolic steroids, which are set out in Article 6E, Clause 4 of the International Federation of Horseracing Authority’s *International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering),* as those which are not to be administered to racehorses at any time in their career (see <http://www.horseracingintfed.com/default.asp?section=IABRW&area=2#a6>)

To this end, EMHF member countries will place, within their doping control procedures and rules, an increasing emphasis on Out of Competition Testing including, where possible, testing after foal registration but prior to horses being returned in training, being cognisant of the fact that the effects of some Prohibited Substances can outlast their detectability, thereby potentially rendering raceday testing ineffective.

Further, the EMHF, taking note of the view of the European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC) that ‘in principle EHSLC supports the prohibition on use of steroids from birth to retirement of the racing horse’, does **not** support the inclusion, within its member Racing Authorities’ domestic Rules of Racing, of any Therapeutic Use Exemption (as defined and allowed for, under certain circumstances, under Article 6E, Clause 5).

EMHF Chairman, Brian Kavanagh stated ”The EMHF is committed to the highest standard of doping control procedures and there is unanimous support for a prohibition on the use of steroids from birth to retirement of racehorses, increased out of competition testing and no therapeutic use exemption. Where possible, member countries will now reflect this policy in their rules of racing and their doping control procedures, delivering a common approach throughout the region on this key issue”.

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Notes for Editors

The European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation

The European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation (EMHF) represents 28 Racing Authorities. It is the regional body of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities. See [www.euromedracing.eu](http://www.euromedracing.eu/).

The main objective of the EMHF is to develop relations among European and Mediterranean Horseracing Authorities, to coordinate promotion of horseracing in Europe and in Mediterranean countries, to defend its integrity and prestige throughout the world and to represent Europe and Mediterranean countries before IFHA.

Among its principal tasks are to:

* -  establish close and lasting relations among Horseracing Authorities.
* -  exchange information on any change in the rules of one Member that could be of common interest for racing and breeding in general.
* -  publish European and Mediterranean statistics accessible to all members,
* -  support the developing racing countries,
* -  represent the interests of European horseracing before the European Union bodies.

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The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) is the world peak body for the international sport of Thoroughbred racing. Its members are the national racing authorities across the globe which stage Thoroughbred races.

Major areas of the IFHA’s activities include:

•       Making and amending the International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering (the IABRW)

•       Policy development relating to welfare and safety of horses and riders

•       International Race Planning and Grading (“black type”)

•       World Rankings

•       Equine Prohibited Substances and Practices

•       Harmonization of Race Day Rules

•       Fostering commercial development of the racing industry globally

The IFHA is a foundation member with Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) of the International Horse Sports Confederation and is affiliated to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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The European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee

The European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC) <https://www.ehslc.com/> was formed in April 1992 following discussion between the Stewards of France, Britain and Ireland on the need for greater harmonisation in technical areas and their wish to encourage co-operation in research so as to face successfully future challenges concerning the illegal use of prohibited substances in racing.

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