

**Ontario
Racing
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January 23, 2008

Statement from the Chair

Health, Safety and Regulatory Measures – 2008 “Protect the health of the horse, ensure safety of the participant, and reinforce the integrity of our sport”

I am pleased to announce these significant measures that are designed to protect the health of the horse, ensure the safety of the participant, and reinforce the integrity of our sport.

The Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) recognizes that the health and well being of the horse and the participant is of paramount concern to the racing community. These measures have resulted from the community's expressed desire for regulation that is fair, consistent and which holds all to the highest standards of accountability. The ORC has listened to the community through the Rules Amendment process, the industry-supported Equine Medication Control and Drug Task Force, and other working groups. I want to acknowledge and thank these members of the community for their input.

The measures include:

- The establishment of a “Horse Health Passport.”
- A new regulation whereby only ORC licensed vets will be authorized to administer medications to racehorses.
- A new regulation on the use of shock wave – or pulse wave – therapy on a racehorse.
- A new regulation requiring the use of safety reins for all racehorses.
- A new regulation requiring the use of safety vests by standardbred participants.
- Owner responsibility -Automatic suspension of a horse for 90 days for testing positive for any non-therapeutic drug.
- A new regulation regarding trainer responsibility.
- Revised guidelines for penalties for equine drug, TCO₂, and non-therapeutic drug offences.
- Guidelines regarding trainer transfers.
- New licensing measures, confirming the terms of receiving an ORC license.
- A series of new regulatory control measures, which govern who may conduct ‘search and seizure’ activities and carry out ‘Out-of-Competition’ activities.
- To codify into the *Rules of Racing* the Policy Directives issued as part of the ORC ‘Out-of-Competition’ Program.

Health, Safety and Regulatory Measures Notice
January 23, 2008

The ORC takes its responsibility as the regulator very seriously. It has listened and responded with bold initiatives, which reinforce the safety, fairness and integrity of the horse racing industry.

I believe these measures send a strong message to participants that they deserve the very best, in terms of protection, professionalism and safe working conditions. The new standards for the testing of participants for alcohol and drugs – which came into effect January 1st – illustrate the community's belief that substance abuse is unsafe and unacceptable in racing. In fact, it is the responsibility of all those engaged in the business of racing to detect and deter substance abuse and to offer programs of intervention, rehabilitation and support to those identified as having these problems.

The ORC will continually look for the ways and means to upgrade what is already a 'best practice' regulatory system.

I am confident these efforts to protect the horse, the participant and the public confidence send a strong message to the public: that through measures such as these, our sport continues to operate at the highest level of integrity.

Please see the Notice to the Industry for more details.

Rod Seiling
Chair
Ontario Racing Commission