Quarter Horse Hair Testing Policy

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission (“IHRC”) is tasked with maintaining the highest standards of integrity in Indiana horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering. Ind. Code art. 4-31 sets forth the mandate that the IHRC safeguard the health of the horse and the public interest through the prohibition or control of all drugs and medications foreign to the natural horse. In pursuit of the legislative directive, the IHRC enacted 71 IAC 8.5-1-2.1 (Clenbuterol prohibited in quarter horses) and 71 IAC 8.5-1-2.2 (Albuterol prohibited in quarter horses).

Pursuant to the above, the IHRC is enacting this hair testing policy to ensure that the abuse of clenbuterol and albuterol do not endanger the equine or human athlete, and do not degrade the public trust in Indiana’s racing product.

Post-Race Testing of Hair

Any trainer that receives a confirmed\(^1\) clenbuterol or albuterol positive for a post-race hair sample, in violation of 71 IAC 8.5-1-2.1 or 71 IAC 8.5-1-2.2, and 71 IAC 8.5-1-4.2(2) or (5), will have the following condition placed on his/her license:

[Trainer] is required to provide a negative hair test for each horse that he/she intends to enter for the remainder of the race meet. The hair test result must not be older than forty-five (45) days. It is the responsibility of [Trainer] to provide the tests at his/her cost, and the tests must be repeated if a test is older than forty-five (45) days. Test results from a test not facilitated by the IHRC staff and/or not conducted by the Commission’s primary laboratory will not be accepted.

If the trainer that receives the above condition on his/her license has other horses entered in races at the time the condition is placed, the other horses will not be scratched from those races. However, the trainer is required to report to IHRC staff to obtain a hair test for each horse currently entered within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the condition on his/her license. While it’s likely those test results will not be available to the IHRC prior to the entered horse racing, the horse will be allowed to race; however, a positive test will result in purse redistribution and that horse’s placement on the Veterinarian/Stewards list. Note: The trainer will also have the option of scratching a horse(s) already entered to race after receiving notice that conditions have been placed on his/her license.

Stakes Race Testing of Hair (Trials)

All horses that qualify for any stakes race at Indiana Grand racetrack are subject to required hair testing immediately following the qualifying race. A horse that does not report to the test barn for hair testing after qualifying for a stakes race is in violation of this policy and may be scratched from the stakes race and assessed a late scratch fee. This is to include any also-eligible horse for all stakes races.

\(^1\) Confirmed tests are provided by the Commission laboratory and may include both an initial sample analysis and a confirmatory analysis if necessary.
Stakes Race Testing of Hair (No Trials)

A sample may be collected from any horse entered in a non-trial stakes race at any time prior to or following the completion of the race.

Existing Hair Testing Policy

This policy should not be construed to limit or curtail the IHRC authority to conduct any drug testing, including hair, blood, urine, etc. as set forth in 71 IAC. The IHRC is implementing the above policy in addition to its existing rules for collecting samples. Any individual that does not comply with the provisions of the above is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including revocation of the individual’s IHRC license.

Trainer Requested Testing

This policy is not intended to limit or amend the IHRC’s policy on trainer requested hair tests for horses. At any time, a trainer may request that the IHRC conduct a hair test (at the trainer’s cost) on any horse racing at Indiana Grand. If the horse receives a confirmed positive for clenbuterol or albuterol, the horse will be placed on the Veterinarian’s List/Stewards List. A trainer that receives a positive test following a trainer requested test will not be subject to the above license condition.

Cost of Hair Testing

An initial hair test will take a minimum of 7 days and cost $150. Should those results indicate the presence of clenbuterol or albuterol, confirmatory analysis will take an additional 7 days and cost an additional $150. All hair testing (excluding post-race testing & out of competition testing) is at the cost of the trainer. Hair testing for Stake races (with or without trials) or trainer requested testing must be paid at the time of sample collection.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the IHRC with any questions or concerns regarding this policy. This policy is to be considered effective beginning April 14, 2020.

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