

Special Board Meeting September 14th, 2014

Present: Scott Smith, Royal Roland, Dan Roland, Joel McDanel, Jim Reese, & Mark Holtan

Absent: Rick Huffman, Jeff Carey, & Brad Kohlwes

The main agenda for this board meeting was to discuss the current drug testing system used in Iowa.

On July 4th, 2014 it was discussed that Iowa Racing and Gaming commission rules currently prohibit the use of Depo. The IaHHA board decided at that time, at IaHHA sponsored races, Depo would be allowed at levels permitted in prior years. Judge Steve Huffman has informed the board that this is not in accordance with USTA or Iowa Racing Commission Rules.

It was also discussed that next year the IaHHA needs to have a written document that states the medications that can be used in Iowa and what the withdraw times and threshold levels of all of these medications are. Joel McDanel suggested getting this document written up and sending out a copy to everyone with the first stake payment papers.

Verification of medications that a horse was declared on for a particular race day was also discussed. If a test at ISU comes back as showing that a particular medication was present in blood or urine it needs to be double checked with that particular days racing program to make sure that the horse was declared on that medication. It was also brought to the attention of the board that ISU has been a little behind/slow about getting tests run and back to the IaHHA. Mark Holtan reported that it is currently taking about 4 weeks to get results back.

Dan Roland and Jim Reese made the suggestions that if a person forgets to give a horse a particular medication that they were declared on for that race day they should not be penalized if traces of the medication do not show up in a blood or urine test. On the other hand if a test comes back positive for a particular medication that a horse was not declared on for that day of racing action will be taken against that particular horse/owner/trainer. In the event of a positive test it was confirmed that the judge for the day of racing when the test occurred shall be the one to take control of the situation and notify the owner/trainer of the positive test and penalty.

The vet stickers for August 17th have been misplaced, but it was reported that Mark Holtan has a program from that particular weekend that had all of the horse that were tested. The results for the tests have all come back negative, but precautions need to be taken so this does not happen in the future.

Pre-race testing was deliberated as well. Dan Roland expressed concerns that pre-race testing was done without the discussion and approval of the entire board. Concerns about TCO₂/blood gas testing were also discussed. Joel McDanel reported that Dr. Wilcox out of Chicago stated that if a blood sample was not tested within two hours of taking the sample then the gas is already out of the blood. Mark Holtan reported that the vets at *Iowa State* disagrees with this and that the gas is still present and can be tested after two hours. The board came to the conclusion of running a sample test next weekend on a horse

not racing. Joel McDanel volunteered one of his horse to be a test subject which will be given baking soda and then the sample will be sent to ISU to see if their testing system will actually catch a positive test. This test will be run without the knowledge of ISU knowing that the horse was given the baking soda.

A regular scheduled board meeting will be held next Sunday September 21, 2014 in Humboldt, Iowa after the races.

Lindsay Sponheim, IaHHA Executive Secretary