



December 2008



LICENSING REMINDERS

Tis the Season to renew your license for the 2009 racing season.

- ORC has downloadable forms on our website at www.michigan.gov/horseracing.
- To save time, print these forms and fill them out completely and accurately prior to coming to our licensing office.
- All office hours are posted on our website and on the door to the track licensing office.
- At this time, there is no change to the fees from 2008.
- Stable rosters are a must and need to be updated throughout the season as necessary.
- EHV certificates must be updated and brought to the track.

ORC RULES PUBLIC HEARING

The ORC will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 15, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Lansing office at 525 W. Allegan St. The hearing will be held to receive comments on proposed changes to Racing Commissioner General Rules to:

- Revise R 431.3055 to increase the amount of overweight jockeys may carry two (2) pounds from the current five (5) pounds to seven (7) pounds.
- Revise R 431.3075 to eliminate the association clocker.
- Revise R 431.1245 to reflect Michigan Law with regards to declaratory orders.
- Correct R 431.3295(4) to reflect "...except as provided for in R 431.1330", instead of "... in R 431.1335".

Written comments may be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2009 to The ORC
c/oLiana Bennett at PO Box 30773, Lansing, MI 48909-8273



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT ORC!
WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST AND HAPPINESS IN 2009

ORC BLOOD GAS POLICY

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the integrity of horse racing and to protect the health and welfare of horses that race in Michigan, the ORC will now test blood gas (TCO₂) samples on-site at pari-mutuel race meets.

- Blood gas samples will be drawn both at random and predetermined selection based on previous elevated levels found in horses from a particular trainer, owner or stable.
- Blood samples will generally be drawn before race time in the paddock and will be analyzed before post time.
- The trainer, owner or other authorized agent for the horse must be present when the sample is taken to witness the sampling and to sign the ORC sample card.
- It will constitute a violation and a fine may be imposed if a horse is left unattended at the time a blood gas sample is to be obtained.
- The allowed warm up period shall be 1 to 1 ½ hours (3 to 4 races) prior to the race in which the horse is entered. If a trainer desires to warm up at a different time that varies from the allowed warm up period, he/she must notify the ORC blood gas collection agent or the ORC veterinarian on duty. Failure to notify the ORC representative regarding a request for a change in warm up time may result in a fine.
- The Michigan ORC has established a TCO₂ threshold value of 37 mmol/L for both furosemide (Lasix) and non-furosemide horses.
- Any test result above the accepted tolerance level will result in an automatic second sample and second test.
- The trainer, owner or other authorized agent of the horse must be present when the second sample is drawn and may watch, through the window of the blood gas laboratory, the sample being analyzed.
- It is important to note that a high TCO₂ concentration is not proof of the intentional administration of sodium bicarbonate or other alkalinizing substances, only that metabolic alkalosis is present. Trainers should work with their veterinarians to identify any procedures or practices that may elevate the TCO₂ value.
- Regardless of reason, excessive TCO₂ values are a violation of the rules and the horse will be scratched from the race and a penalty on the trainer will be assessed by the stewards.



EQUINE DEHYDRATION, IMPACTION AND COLIC DUE TO COLD WEATHER

Winter is here and although it is colder weather, it is still important to keep your horse hydrated with proper amounts of water. This can be difficult as the water freezes and may not be readily available, especially if the horse is in pasture.

Without proper amounts of water, impaction or a blockage in the digestive tract leading to constipation may result. The horse's belly will feel bloated to the touch and the horse will stop eating. At this time, it is recommended to watch for signs of colic.

Signs of colic include sluggishness, a matted coat, signs of pain where the horse may lie down for long periods of time to paw or stretch. The horse's manure will be small, pebble-like and covered with a substance similar to mucus. It is imperative to have a veterinarian examine and if diagnosed with colic to have the horse treated immediately. Failure to do so may result in the rupture of the horse's gut and subsequent death of the animal.

Although colic is treatable, it is much better to prevent the condition than have to cure it. Make sure to give your horse high quality feed and ensure that it has access to plenty of fresh water. Horses don't like to drink freezing cold water and check to make sure your horse is drinking.