

Drug & Medication Rule

For the purposes of this rule, EDRA uses the following resources in determining prohibited substances:

- <https://www.usef.org/compete/regulation/drugs-medications>
- <https://inside.fei.org/content/anti-doping-rules>
- The FEI Clean Sport App (that can be downloaded onto most smartphones)

Definitions

1. **Competition or Competitive Event:** The competition or competitive event begins when the Equine is presented to a veterinarian for a pre-ride veterinarian examination and continues until the Equine withdraws, is eliminated for cause, completes the course and post-ride veterinarian exam, or completes judging for Best-in-Class (BC), whichever comes last.
2. **EDRA:** Equine Distance Riding Association
3. **Equine:** A horse, pony, mule, burro, or donkey
4. **Responsible Party/Parties (RP):** The rider, owner, Trainer, and/or Support Crew of the Equine
5. **Rule:** The EDRA Drug and Medication Rule
6. **Substantial Evidence:** Such relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.
7. **Support Crew:** Includes any person present at the event who may have made a relevant decision about the care or handling of the Equine.
8. **Trainer:** Any adult who has or shares the responsibility for the care, training, custody, condition, or performance of the Equine
9. **Drug Testing Laboratory (Laboratory):** The laboratory with which EDRA has a contract to conduct drug testing on Equines participating in an EDRA event.
10. **Head Veterinarian:** The veterinarian who has been designated as the Head Veterinarian by the entity/individual receiving EDRA endorsement for conducting the Competitive Event

Microchipping

Equines are not required to have been microchipped at EDRA endorsed events.

Biometric sensors and equipment

Biometric sensors and equipment are permitted if minimal in design and not intrusive (e.g., they may not break the skin to access blood or internal fluids).

Heart rate monitors and devices that provide additional information such as skin temperature, heat score, and stride length or stride anomaly are allowed. However, the Head Veterinarian has the authority to prohibit the use of such equipment and in the event that a ride veterinarian comes to a different conclusion than the one provided by the equipment being used, the veterinarian's decisions are final and are not to be challenged.

Equine Drugs and Medications Provisions

1. Every Equine participating in an EDRA endorsed event, regardless of distance, is subject to and required to be in compliance with this Rule.
2. No Equine may participate in any EDRA event if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contains in its tissues, body fluids, or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations. A list of prohibited substances can be found on the FEI Clean Sport App.
3. ALL RP AND VETERINARIANS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, THE INGREDIENTS AND

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS MANY OF THEM NO DOUBT CONTAIN ONE OR MORE FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCES.

Prohibited Practices

The identification of Prohibited Practices is detailed in the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) General Rules, GR414. EDRA rules are intended to be similar to those of USEF. Completion of the event is defined as one hour after the equine has received its final veterinarian examination (whether after finishing the course, showing for Best-in-Class, being pulled by the veterinarian, or withdrawing from the competition due to a rider option). Specifically:

1. No injectable substances may be administered within 12 hours prior to the Competitive Event (see definition of Competitive Event in Part I). Certain exceptions apply. (See USEF GR 414 for more details.)
2. Laser and shockwave therapy, Acuscope, Bemer blanket, Pulsing Electromagnetic Frequency and other similar stimuli/pain relief devices/treatments are not permitted within 96 hours of the Competitive Event and may not be used again until the completion of the event.
3. Kinesiotape may not be used up to one hour prior to the Competitive Event and may not be used again until the completion of the event.
4. Acupuncture is permitted for therapeutic purposes when administered by a licensed veterinarian and solid (not hollow) needles are utilized. This treatment is permitted up to 24 hours prior to a Competitive Event and may not be used again until the completion of the event.

Conditions for Therapeutic Administrations of Controlled Substances

Some substances which are listed as “Controlled Substances” in the FEI Prohibited Drug List may, under certain conditions, be administered to horses prior to competition. A Therapeutic Exception Request must be made in writing and submitted electronically to the Vice President of EDRA at minimum 10 days prior to competition. The Vice President will consult with an EDRA veterinarian before consenting to the Equine being eligible for competition. Any Equine who receives any medication which contains a prohibited substance is not eligible for competition unless all the following requirements have been met:

1. The Person Responsible must provide documentation requesting a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) whereby:
2. A licensed veterinarian has indicated the medication is therapeutic and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an existing illness or injury,
3. The equine must not have received this medication sooner than 24 hours from the Competitive Event,
4. The medication must be used under the direction of a licensed veterinarian,
5. The equine is identified by name, age, gender, and color,
6. Diagnosis and reason for administration,
7. Date and time of administration, and
8. Signature of veterinarian overseeing the administration of the medication.

NOTE: The use of Pergolide to treat Equine Cushing’s Disease must be documented as described above EXCEPT there is no 24-hour withdrawal period required.

Once the documentation required for a Therapeutic Use Exception (TUE) has been reviewed and approved, it remains in effect until advised otherwise by the person responsible. The TUE will be placed in the Steward Manual, but the original requestor is advised to keep a personal copy in case of questions by officials at an event.

Any questions regarding the interpretation of this policy, or with regard to particular substances, should be directed to the President of the Equine Distance Riding Association at the office of EDRA, 20230 NE Redmond Rd, Redmond, WA 98053 or contact@equinedistanceriding.com. RP(s) are also encouraged to consult the most current FEI Prohibited Substances Database accessible through the FEI Clean Sport App and the USEF Guidelines and Rules for Drugs and Medications. Any RP who is uncertain about whether these Rules apply under particular situations or questions the use of a particular substance would be well advised to withdraw the affected Equine from Competition.

Testing

1. Equines participating at an EDRA endorsed event are subject to examination by a veterinarian. The examination may include, at the Head Veterinarian's sole discretion, physical exam and/or blood tests and/or any other test or procedures necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Rule. RP will be notified as soon as possible upon completion, withdrawal, or elimination from the Competitive Event if their Equine is to be tested. The Head Veterinarian will make every effort to conduct the sampling at a maximum of within 30 minutes of completion, withdrawal, or elimination. If the Equine is to stand for Best-in-Class, the testing may, if feasible, be conducted after completion of the BC exams. If there is an unavoidable delay in sampling (e.g., the Equine must be trailered off the course back to ride camp), the RP will be advised of the delay by the Head Veterinarian or Steward or another ride official. The Head Veterinarian may examine any Equine on the Competition grounds that started the event, including those that withdrew or were eliminated for any reason.
2. Refusal to submit the Equine for examination or to cooperate with the Head Veterinarian constitutes a violation and subjects the RP to penalties under this Rule and EDRA General Rules. Cooperation with the Head Veterinarian and/or his agent(s) includes such things as:
 - a. Taking the Equine immediately to the location selected by the Head Veterinarian for testing and presenting it for testing.
 - b. Assisting the Head Veterinarian in procuring the sample promptly, including but not limited to removing equipment from the Equine, leaving it quietly in the testing area and avoiding any distractions to it. Schooling, lengthy cooling out, bandaging and other delays of this type shall be construed as noncooperation.
 - c. Polite attitude and actions toward the Head Veterinarian and/or his/her agent(s).
3. RP who are not able to accompany the Head Veterinarian and Equine to the location where examination/sample collection is to take place, to act as witness to the collection and sealing of blood samples, and to sign the drug collection documents in the appropriate places as witness, must appoint an agent to do so. The absence of such a witness shall constitute a waiver of any objection to the identification of the Equine tested and the manner of collection and sealing of the samples.
4. The Head Veterinarian shall fill all tubes contained in the collection kit. Immediately after doing so, the tubes shall be sealed as directed by the Laboratory. These procedures shall be performed whether or not the RP or his/her appointed witness is present as provided for above.
5. In the event reasonable attempts at sample collections from the Equine do not provide a sufficient amount to fill all of the provided tubes, the Head Veterinarian shall make a note on the testing material returned to the Laboratory noting that it was not possible to obtain a sufficient sample. A similar statement shall be placed in the Steward's Manual. All samples shall remain in the sole possession of the Head Veterinarian, Ride Manager, Steward, or their designee until such time as they are mailed to the Laboratory for testing.

Accountability of Responsible Parties

1. Any RP who actually administers, attempts to administer, instructs, aids, conspires with another to administer, or employs anyone who administers or attempts to administer a forbidden substance to an Equine at an EDRA event is subject to the penalties provided in this Rule and EDRA General Rules.
2. RP are, in the absence of Substantial Evidence to the contrary, responsible, and accountable under the penalty provisions of this Rule and EDRA General Rules. RP are not relieved from such responsibility as a result of the lack or insufficiency of ride venue security.

Results, Confirmatory Analysis, and Retest

1. One labeled sample shall be subjected to chemical analysis by the Laboratory. Additional labeled samples shall be stored securely, unopened, at the Laboratory, to be used in the event a follow-up analysis is required. The sample subjected to chemical analysis shall be referred to as the Initial Sample and any additional samples shall be referred to as Remaining Sample(s).
2. In the event the chemical analysis of the Initial Sample is negative, i.e., no forbidden substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is found to be present in the Initial Sample, the Remaining Samples may be disposed of by the Laboratory. The Laboratory will send results to the Drug Coordinator of EDRA, and the RP will be notified by the Drug Coordinator. No further action will be taken.
3. In the event the chemical analysis of the Initial Sample is positive, i.e., a forbidden substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is found to be present, this shall be prima facie evidence that the

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forbidden substance was administered in some manner to the Equine, whether intentionally or unintentionally, or otherwise was caused to be present in the tissues, body fluids or excreta of the Equine and all RP may be deemed responsible and accountable.

4. In the event the chemical analysis is positive:
 - a. The Drug Coordinator will advise the President of EDRA who shall immediately notify the RP via email and certified/registered mail of the positive test result.
 - b. A RP wishing to have a Remaining Sample tested must, within 15 days of receiving the notice of a positive test, notify the EDRA President by email or registered/certified mail of their desire to test one of the Remaining Samples. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the request for testing one of the Remaining Samples, EDRA shall coordinate such analysis, and the RP will be responsible for paying for the second test. If the results of the second test are negative, EDRA shall reimburse the RP for the cost of the Remaining Sample test.
 - c. If no RP requests a test of one of the Remaining Samples, all RP are deemed to have:
 - i. Waived their right to another Sample analyzed, and
 - ii. Accepted as accurate the Initial Sample analytical results.
 - d. The confirmatory analysis of a second Remaining Sample shall be performed by a laboratory that is approved by EDRA and agreed upon by the RP requesting the confirmatory analysis, which laboratory must have demonstrated proficiency in performing the necessary confirmatory analysis, provided a Remaining Sample exists and is of sufficient volume to permit a confirmatory analysis. In the event the Laboratory that analyzed the Initial Sample is the only laboratory that has demonstrated proficiency in performing the necessary confirmatory analysis, this laboratory shall be the only laboratory to perform the confirmatory analysis of the second Remaining Sample. Upon the completion of the confirmatory analysis, the laboratory performing the confirmatory analysis shall forward its findings and supporting data to all parties.
 - e. In the event no agreement is reached as to a laboratory, as required above and the RP who requests the confirmatory analysis does not revoke his/her request, the confirmatory analysis of the second Sample shall be performed by the Laboratory and shall forward its findings and supporting data to all parties. Both the results of the Initial Sample analysis (and supporting data) and the results of the confirmatory analysis of the corresponding Remaining Sample, if any (and supporting data, if any), shall be admissible as evidence in any hearing or proceeding pertaining to this matter.
 - f. In the event additional Remaining Samples do not exist or are of insufficient volume to permit a confirmatory analysis, and there exists a remaining aliquot of the Initial Sample which is of sufficient volume to permit a retest the confirmatory analysis will be conducted on the Initial Sample. Any requested re-test of the remaining aliquot of the Initial Sample, provided it is of sufficient volume to permit a retest, shall be performed by the Laboratory.
 - g. The RP requesting the confirmatory test on a Remaining Sample, or the retest of the remaining aliquot of the Initial Sample, is required to pay all fees and costs associated with the testing before such confirmatory analysis will be performed whether it is performed by a mutually agreed upon laboratory or by the Laboratory. Failure to pay for the testing will be considered a waiver of the right to retest and an acceptance of the accuracy of the Initial Sample results.
 - h. If the laboratory's confirmatory analysis of the second Remaining Sample does not substantially confirm the Laboratory's findings, then any allegations that the substance in question was present at the time that the samples were collected shall be dismissed.
 - i. If the laboratory's confirmatory analysis of the second Remaining Sample substantially confirms the Laboratory's findings, the finding shall be considered conclusive.
5. When a positive report is received from the Laboratory, EDRA shall not take any disciplinary action against an RP until after an administrative penalty has been assessed or after the conclusion of a hearing and a written ruling thereon has been made.

Positive Drug Reports – Plea Agreement or Hearing

1. Once a positive drug test result is received and any requested confirmatory testing is either completed or waived, the EDRA President shall convene a drug violation review sub-committee consisting of a minimum of three Board members to investigate the matter and decide whether to: (1) offer the RP a plea agreement, (2) send the matter for a full hearing, or (3) determine that no further action be taken in the matter. In making this decision the sub-committee shall consider all pertinent information available, including the seriousness of the alleged violation(s), precedents in similar EDRA drug violation cases, and

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any prior General Rule violation(s) by the RP, and may, if desired, consult with the Head Veterinarian from the ride and/or the USEF Drug and Medication Department. The sub-committee is authorized to include any penalty listed in this Rule as part of the plea agreement.

2. Any member of the sub-committee shall at any time disqualify himself or herself from the proceedings if they believe that they have a conflict of interest or cannot, for any reason, conduct themselves in an impartial manner.
3. Notice of the sub-committee's decision shall be sent to all RP via email and certified/registered mail within 30 days of the date of the original positive drug test or the results of the retest are received, whichever is later. The notice will inform the RP of their right to a full hearing. Any notice mailed to the last current address listed with EDRA shall be deemed sufficient notice.
4. Within 15 days of receipt of the sub-committee's decision, the RP must notify the EDRA President via email and certified/registered mail of the RP's intent to accept or decline the plea agreement. If an RP fails to reply within the 15-day period, the RP is considered to have accepted the plea agreement and any right to a hearing is permanently waived and no further action may be taken on the matter by either EDRA or the RP.
5. Once an RP accepts a plea agreement it shall be effective immediately, shall be final, and shall not be subject to further review under any circumstance(s).
6. If an RP declines to accept a plea agreement, the matter shall proceed to a full hearing before the Hearing Committee. The Hearing Committee shall not be limited in choice of penalties to those that may have been offered as part of plea agreement.
7. The Hearing Committee shall consist of at least one member who is a veterinarian, one member of the sub-committee and an additional Board member. The RP may contest, on grounds and with evidence, the inclusion of any one member of the Hearing Committee if he/she feels impartiality is an issue. The RP may suggest an alternative who must be either a current Board member or a veterinarian. The substitution is subject to Hearing Committee approval.
8. Any member of the Hearing Committee shall at any time disqualify himself or herself from the proceedings if they believe that they have a conflict of interest or cannot, for any reason, conduct themselves in an impartial manner. Except for members who are disqualified under this provision, all members of the Hearing Committee must be present during the entire hearing to consider all evidence, as well as to deliberate and decide the outcome of the matter.
9. Within 15 days of when an RP declines a plea agreement, the Hearing Committee will set a hearing date to take place within the next 30 days. The Hearing Committee may postpone the date once upon request of the RP for good cause.
10. RP may attend their hearing in person or telephonically, at their option, with or without counsel, and may bring witnesses, submit sworn statements, or other evidence on their behalf. Opening and closing statements may be made by the parties to the Hearing, but the Hearing Committee reserves the right to limit the length of such statements.
11. At the hearing, EDRA has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence.
12. The Hearing Committee shall prepare a written record of the proceedings which shall include the evidence considered in the proceeding, each finding of fact based on the evidence, the conclusions and decisions regarding the alleged Rule violations and a statement of penalties, if any, imposed and of other relief granted or denied. The Hearing Committee is not limited in its choice of penalties to those that were offered in the plea agreement. This written record, along with the initial recommendations of the President and Vice President, constitutes the official record. The written record shall be issued within 15 business days of the hearing.
13. EDRA does not require a verbatim stenographic transcript of the hearing to be made, but an RP may arrange for one at their own expense. EDRA reserves the right to obtain a copy of the transcript at its own cost.
14. The Hearing Committee's decision following a full hearing on the matter is final.

Penalties

1. If a violation of the Rule is found to have occurred, the Hearing Committee may impose one or more of the penalties set forth below, which will be published on the EDRA website.
2. Censure and disapproval of equine drugging.
3. Suspension of all Responsible Parties for any specified period of time: A suspended person is forbidden from participating in any EDRA event and may not participate in EDRA affairs and activities, hold, or exercise office.

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4. Expulsion or suspension of all Responsible Parties from membership in EDRA for any specified period of time.
5. Forfeiture of points, miles, placings, awards, and BCs earned at the ride in which a positive drug test was obtained, and all rides thereafter for a specified period of time.
6. Suspension of Equine: The Equine that had a positive drug test may be suspended for any period of time specified by the Hearing Committee.
7. In determining an appropriate penalty under these Rules, the Hearing Committee may consider such factors and circumstances as it may deem relevant, including but not limited to:
 - a. The pharmacology of the forbidden substance,
 - b. The credibility and good faith of the person charged or of other witnesses,
 - c. Penalties determined in similar cases, and
 - d. Past violations of any EDRA Rules (or the lack thereof).
 - e. Reliance upon the professional ability or advice of a veterinarian who is a licensed graduate of an accredited veterinary school and who is in good standing in the state in which he/she primarily practices.
8. If the Hearing Committee determines that any violation or attempted violation of this Rule was willful and/or intentional, there shall not be any limit to the period of a suspension, and the Hearing Committee may impose other and significantly greater penalties than it would have in the absence of such a determination.