

# NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE

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## **RULE BOOK SECTION 7: PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND TREATMENTS**

### A. General Provisions:

1. Purpose: The purpose of this rule against the use of Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Treatments in equines during NATRC rides is both to protect the equines from harm and to ensure fair competition. Equines should compete under their natural abilities without the influence of any drug, medication or veterinary treatment.
2. Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Treatments as defined in this Rule shall not be administered to or used in an equine competing in an NATRC ride. No equine in which a Prohibited Substance or its metabolite is present shall compete, regardless of when the Prohibited Substance was administered to it.
3. For purposes of this rule, competition begins at the time of the initial presentation for the preliminary veterinary exam. Competition ends when an equine has been pulled, disqualified, or has successfully passed the final veterinary exam.

### B. Prohibited Substances: (For the Appendices referred to in this Section, see the NATRC web site)

1. The products identified in Appendix A to this rule are Prohibited Substances.
2. A substance which is not identified by name in B.1. above is a Prohibited Substance if it falls within the categories identified in Appendix B to this rule.
3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, the products or categories of substances identified in Appendix C to this rule are not Prohibited Substances.
4. If a substance is not identifiable as a Prohibited Substance under B.1. or B.2. above or is not specifically allowed under B.3. above, it is a Prohibited Substance if it is (a) either an exogenous substance or an endogenous substance administered in abnormal amounts, and is (b) potentially harmful to the equine or is performance enhancing.
5. NATRC recognizes that trace amounts may be detected of some substances which are commonly used for treating equines and which are considered not to influence horses during competition when present under certain threshold levels. NATRC also recognizes that trace amounts may also be detected of substances which have no legitimate use in equines but which are present at extremely low levels from unintentional and unavoidable exposure to environmental contamination. Accordingly, notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, the following specific substances only are not Prohibited Substances if detected in concentrations below the threshold amount corresponding to the substance in the table shown in Appendix D to this rule.
6. General guidelines for the length of time selected substances remain in an equine's system are set out in Appendix E to this rule. These detection time guidelines are advisory only and are not a part of this rule governing Prohibited Substances. The detection time for a Prohibited Substance varies with the size and health of the equine, the method of administration, dosage, the testing method and the detection limits used by the testing laboratory, among other factors. Accordingly, these detection time guidelines shall not affect the determination of whether or not there has been a violation of this rule. Reliance on these detection time guidelines does not guarantee compliance with this rule.

### C. Prohibited Treatments:

1. The treatments or procedures identified in Appendix F to this rule are Prohibited Treatments if administered to an equine while in competition.
2. Prohibited Treatments while an equine is in competition shall also include any diagnostic procedures involving the use of a needle, syringe or other device or instrument except for a stethoscope, heart rate monitor, rectal or skin temperature thermometer, or syringe for the oral administration of permitted substances. Drawing blood or measuring blood parameters by any means including, but not limited to, transdermal methods from an equine while it is competing is a Prohibited Treatment unless it is done for diagnostic or research purposes and access to results or other information from measuring blood parameters is withheld from the equine's rider and/or owner from the time the ride starts until after the equine has finished competing in the ride. The intention to draw blood or measure blood parameters by any means from an equine for diagnostic or research purposes must be declared in writing to the ride management and veterinary judge at the time of the equine's preliminary veterinary examination so that there is no misinterpretation during competition of the purpose for using the needle and syringe necessary for drawing blood or instruments needed to measure blood parameters.
3. The following veterinary procedures are considered Prohibited Treatments even if performed prior to time the treated equine is competing:
  - a. Shockwave therapy is a Prohibited Treatment unless performed more than seven days prior to the time the treated equine is competing.
  - b. Surgical or chemical neurectomy, whenever it is performed, is a Prohibited Treatment. No equine which has been the subject of a neurectomy at any time shall compete.
4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, the treatments or procedures identified in Appendix G to this rule are not Prohibited Treatments even if administered to an equine while in competition.

### D. Revision of Appendices:

1. The appendices will be periodically updated by NATRC.

### E. Violations and Enforcement Procedures:

1. Every rider or other person in control of an equine at an NATRC ride shall upon request by an NATRC approved veterinarian or governmental testing representative permit a specimen of urine, saliva, blood or other substance to be collected from the equine for testing. Refusing to allow or co-operate with testing for Prohibited Substances at a ride shall be considered to be the same as the administration or use of a Prohibited Substance and shall be grounds for immediate disqualification from the event as well as the imposition of additional penalties by NATRC.
2. NATRC shall with the advice of the Veterinary Drug Committee establish and publish procedures for the testing for Prohibited Substances.
  - (a) Upon receipt by the Veterinary Drug Committee of a laboratory report showing the presence of a substance which may be a Prohibited Substance under this rule, the Veterinary Drug Committee shall investigate and determine if there is a violation.
  - (b) The Veterinary Drug Committee will submit the report and all pertinent information regarding the results to the Executive Administrator.
  - (c) The Executive Administrator will then submit the report of the Veterinary Drug Committee to the Protest Committee. The Chairman of the Veterinary Drug Committee will be a member of that Protest Committee.