

BHA Equine Anti-Doping Rules – Breaches and Penalties

Trainers must read the full rules and guidance from the BHA. This is a brief summary only.

Breaches of the anti-doping rules can occur in the following ways:

A positive sample of a prohibited substance – in the case of a positive from blood or urine this is strict liability upon the responsible person.

Use or attempted use of a prohibited substance or prohibited method

Evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection (even where the responsible person was not aware of the test or in attendance at the test)

Tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control

Administration or attempted administration of any prohibited substance or a prohibited method

Possession of a prohibited substance without acceptable justification

Whereabouts failures – three “filing failures” within a 12 month period for a trainer or owner, or three missed tests for a horse within an 18 month period. **Filing failures include failing to provide information and failing to update out of date information.** A filing failure remains on record for 12 months and a second and third failure dated within that 12 month period will constitute a breach.

Trafficking or attempted trafficking in any substance or method which is prohibited at all times.

Penalties

In the event the Disciplinary Panel find a breach of the rules, the following penalties apply:

Responsible Person

A Responsible Person who has breached the rules as a result of a positive urine or blood test for a prohibited at all times substance is likely to receive a penalty of one to 10 years disqualification.

This will also apply where a hair sample has provided a positive test result and the subsequent investigation has identified the Responsible Person who had the care and control of the horse at the relative time.

Evasion/refusal/failure to submit a horse for testing

These will be treated similarly to a positive test for a substance treated at all times so could lead to disqualification between one and ten years. A negligent failure to submit a horse for testing could still result in disqualification for a period between 6 months and 5 years.

Whereabouts failure

A whereabouts failure could also lead to disqualification from 1 month to 3 years or a fine of between £1000 - £5000. There are a range of penalties here to reflect whether there was an attempt to avoid testing or an administrative breach.

Consequences for the horse

In respect of the following:

- the presence of a sample other than in hair, or the use or administration of a substance prohibited at all times
- evasion, refusal or failure to comply with sample collection
- three missed tests

The horse will be subject to a period of 14 months suspension from racing and a 12 month stand down period from training (to run concurrently)

The period of disqualification, suspension and stand down will commence from the date the breach occurred – e.g. the date the sample was collected or the date the substance was administered if evidenced through other means.

Any results obtained between the date of violation and the Disciplinary Panel's decision to impose a suspension will be disqualified and credit will be receive for this period of time – this means the full period a horse is suspended and has results disqualified for will only ever be 14 months.

Specific race where the breach is connected with a specific race, the horse will be disqualified and prize money withheld/returned.

5th March 2015