

## **Stakeholder briefing: Anti-doping provision in British racing**

Following recent media reports regarding anti-doping provisions in place in Ireland, we wanted to provide British stakeholders with an overview of how racing ensures this important aspect of our integrity provision is maintained.

You may be interested to read the statement issued by the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB) on 14 June 2021. You can find this statement [here](#).

### **International collaboration and standard of testing**

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) has an established process for accrediting laboratories as IFHA Reference Laboratories, to ensure the highest standards and scientific capabilities.

British racing's partner laboratory, LGC in Newmarket, is one of only a limited number of racing analytical laboratories in the world accredited as an IFHA Reference Laboratory.

Since 2018, LGC in Newmarket has also been the laboratory servicing the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board (IHRB), analysing all samples collected in Ireland.

It's worth noting that since last year, the BHA has supported the IHRB by managing their intelligence system and undertaking bet monitoring on Irish racing. This has been of mutual benefit to British and Irish racing and has increased the capacity of the IHRB's overall integrity provision.

The BHA works with the IHRB on the sharing of intelligence and for major festivals collaborates on the collection of out of competition samples for horses holding entries in Britain. These samples are analysed for the presence of prohibited at all times substances, such as anabolic steroids. This is done through the collection of a range of different sample types including urine, blood and, in some instances, hair, which enables the laboratory to look back over months and sometimes years for evidence of the administration of prohibited at all times substances.

### **BHA testing**

The BHA, with the support of the racing industry, invests continually in anti-doping testing and analysis, not only meeting but exceeding baseline international standards.

During the winter of 2020/21, the BHA collected a significant number of raceday hair samples from horses trained in both Britain and Ireland. This enabled analysis reaching back months, with no adverse analytical findings reported.

This was on top of our extensive programme of routine testing, with around 5,000 samples taken already in 2021. This programme includes raceday (pre- and post-race) and out-of-competition testing, and includes raceday testing of all Group and Graded races.

BHA anti-doping rules and policies apply not only to GB licensed participants, but also to all international trainers wishing to race horses in Great Britain.

For example, at the 2021 Cheltenham Festival, tests on Irish trained horses constituted 56% of the total tests conducted (relative to Ireland providing around 40% of the runners). As a general rule of thumb throughout the year, and as a result of the testing criteria applied, an equal percentage of

Irish trained horses running in Great Britain will tend to be tested, relative to the percentage of British trained runners tested.

Thoroughbred foals must be registered with the General Stud Book within 30 days of their birth. From this point onwards they must be available for testing at any time, whether in training or out of training. To facilitate this, the whereabouts of Thoroughbreds must be logged with the BHA at all times.

### **Research and development**

The international racing community, and in particular the IFHA accredited Reference Laboratories, have for many decades been at the forefront of equine anti-doping, both in terms of analytical capacity and investment in research.

In any given year LGC, supported by the BHA through the Centre for Racehorse Studies, publishes research to advance the development and detection of novel and emerging substances seen as priorities by the horseracing industry. Most recently, LGC and the BHA have embarked on a programme of research designed to advance capabilities in gene doping, all as part of a global racing collaboration.

British racing is very fortunate to have a facility to undertake such research, as this work benefits not only Britain, but also our colleagues in Ireland who likewise have access to those latest methods of detection and knowledge.

The BHA appreciates the collective effort of the British racing industry in ensuring that our sport remains fair and clean.