

RCI Model Rules Committee
Petition for new rule or change to existing rule

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A. Brief Description of the Issue

Internationally, a plasma threshold for testosterone in fillies, mares (non-pregnant), and geldings was adopted. That threshold is 100 pg/ml. Currently, the US has a threshold of 25 pg/ml in fillies, mares and geldings. The current threshold, which was recommended by RMTC, is based upon the best data that was available at the time and included population data presented by Dr. Soma and a limited number of research horses.

Because of the disparity between the international and US thresholds, the RMTC SAC became concerned about the defensibility of the existing threshold. Accordingly, the RMTC reviewed data from 4,419 Thoroughbred and Standardbred fillies and mares and 1,942 geldings. The resulting data showed that a 100 pg/ml threshold would sufficiently protect the integrity interests of racing and provide a greater margin of safety for horsemen.

Although there have been no violations between 25 and 100 pg/ml in fillies and mares the RMTC recommends this change to maintain consistency with international thresholds.

B. Discussion of the Issue and Problem

Provide background on the issue to build context. Address the following:

- *What specific problems or concerns are involved in this issue?* This proposal is designed to modify the testosterone threshold in fillies, mares (non-pregnant), and geldings to 100 pg/ml.
- *Who does the issue affect?* Horses, trainers, owners.
- *What existing model rules relate to this issue?* ARCI-011-020 Subd. I
- *Provide relevant quantitative or statistical information if possible.*

C. Possible Solutions and Impact

Provide possible recommendations to solve the problem. Include details on each proposed solution such as

- *What solution does this proposal provide?* This will increase the defensibility of testosterone findings as these numbers are consistent with international thresholds.
- *How will the solution fix the problem?* This will eliminate the argument that the threshold should be increased as it is lower than that required by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
- *How will the change affect any entities or stakeholders?* It increases protection for horsemen while protecting integrity concerns.
- *How will you or your organization be affected by the proposed change?* This is a benefit to the horsemen and commissions, not the RMTC.

- *What are the benefits of the proposed change?* Increased safety factor for the horsemen, increased case defensibility for the commissions.
- *What are the possible drawbacks of the proposed change?* There may be a slight increase in the ability to use exogenous aqueous testosterone, also granulosa cell tumors in fillies and mares may take longer to identify
- *Identify possible fiscal impact of the recommended change.* This may decrease litigation costs to commissions.

D. Industry Support

Please identify any affected stakeholder groups that expressed support or opposition.

This was passed unanimously by RMTC board members.

E. Proposed Model Rule language

Attach the model rule language you are proposing.

No AAS shall be permitted in test samples collected from racing horses except for endogenous concentrations of the naturally occurring substances boldenone, nandrolone, and testosterone at concentrations less than the indicated thresholds. (2) Concentrations of these AAS shall not exceed the following free (i.e., not conjugated) steroid concentrations in plasma or serum:

...

(c) Testosterone – A confirmatory threshold not greater than 25 100 picograms/milliliter for fillies, mares, and gelding.

F. Similar State Rules

Do any racing jurisdictions currently have a version of this rule in effect?

Some jurisdictions are enforcing this threshold since the RMTC SAC recommendation such as Kentucky.

G. Review and Identification of affected Model Rules

Review the RCI Model Rules and identify any other Model Rules this change would affect and submit proposed amendments to those rules to comply with changes that would be made by this proposal.

None.