

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

Contact Information:

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A. Brief Description of the Issue

Regulatory veterinarian access to medical records for horses can be important in reviewing whether a horse is sound for racing. When horses ship into a track within days of a race, often that information is not available to veterinarians making decisions on race day. The existing rule was reviewed by an RMTC subcommittee including representatives of AAEP, HBPA, Regulatory Veterinarians, Jockeys' Guild, NTRA, racetracks and regulators.

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 involves the health and welfare of racehorses. By ensuring regulatory veterinarian access to health records for horses shipping into their jurisdiction, regulatory veterinarians are better equipped to determine the soundness of horses for racing or training.
- *Who does the issue affect?* Veterinarians, trainers, owners, and horses on commission regulated properties.
- *What existing model rules relate to this issue?* **ARCI-001-010 Terms, ARCI-008-020 Trainers**
- *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?* Proposed rule language provides the regulatory veterinarian the ability to request information on horses that ship into the relevant racing jurisdiction allowing them to make better informed decisions on racing soundness.
- *How will the solution fix the problem?* Allowing Veterinary Medical Record access to regulatory veterinarians enables dialogue between the private practice veterinarian and the regulatory veterinarian and provides a greater picture of overall horse health.
- *How will the change affect any entities or stakeholders?* This will require private veterinarians and trainers to make these records available upon request of a regulatory veterinarian.
- *How will you or your organization be affected by the proposed change?* RMTC will not benefit directly – but we believe this will enhance the health and welfare of the horse.
- *What are the benefits of the proposed change?* By having additional information about the health of a horse, regulatory veterinarians are better able to evaluate horses for racing and training soundness.
- *What are the possible drawbacks of the proposed change?* It may require management of paper records by the veterinarians and regulatory authorities. The paper records process may soon be relieved by a pilot electronic records program currently being developed by The Jockey Club in conjunction with the California Horse Racing Board.

- *Identify possible fiscal impact of the recommended change.* The main fiscal impact will be in regulatory veterinarian time resources.

D. Industry Support

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

The RMTC board passed the proposed model rule for ARCI submission with a supermajority of 17, 1 abstention (The Hambletonian Society), and 2 opposed (HBPA and AAEP).

The Arabian Jockey Club member voted in the affirmative stating “This is fair and necessary.”

The AAEP representative opposed requesting RMTC “Define iv. on 14-day reporting”

The ARCI member voted in favor stating “I am voting in the affirmative to advance this to RCI”

E. Proposed Model Rule language

Attach the model rule language you are proposing.

ARCI-001-010 Terms:

Relevant Regulatory Authority: The Relevant Regulatory Authority is the Regulatory Authority under which the horse is entered to race or scheduled to work off the Veterinarian’s List.

14-day Record: The 14-day Record shall include the following information regarding treatments:

- i. the name of the horse treated;
- ii. any medication, drug, substance, or procedure administered or prescribed by a veterinarian within 14 days prior to working off the vets list or racing
- iii. the date and time of treatment; and
- iv. any other information requested by the official veterinarian or Regulatory Authority designee.

The 14-day Record is confidential to the extent allowed by law.

ARCI-008-020 Trainers

C. Other Responsibilities

18) Records for Horses Shipping to the Track:

If a horse is not stabled at a facility under the jurisdiction of the Relevant Racing Authority for the full 14 days prior to a race or working off the Veterinarian’s List, the trainer must make available to the official veterinarian or other Regulatory Authority designee, upon request, the 14-Day Record.

Failure to provide accurate and complete records as requested shall result in disciplinary action.

F. Similar State Rules

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

None that we are aware of

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 known