

RCI Model Rules Committee

PETITION FOR NEW RULE OR CHANGE TO EXISTING RULE

Cobalt

Name:	Clara Fenger
Organization:	NAARV
Address:	4904 Ironworks Rd, Georgetown, KY 40324
Phone(s):	(859)983-0737
Fax #:	(502)867-7574
E-mail Address:	drfng@gmail.com

A. Brief Description of the Issue:

The existing ARCI Cobalt threshold is not based on any published scientific evidence. A recent study completed by Drs. McKeever, Maylin, Fenger and others has established a threshold with a scientific basis. We propose that the Cobalt threshold identified by this peer reviewed scientific study of 70 ppb be adopted.

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?*

Cobalt was initially regulated because it was considered to be potentially performance enhancing. Multiple studies have been conducted demonstrating no effect of Cobalt on erythropoietin production. Our paper demonstrates conclusively that cobalt provides no performance effect, and also that a population survey of non-cobalt administered horses establishes a threshold of 70 ppb.

- Who does the issue affect?*

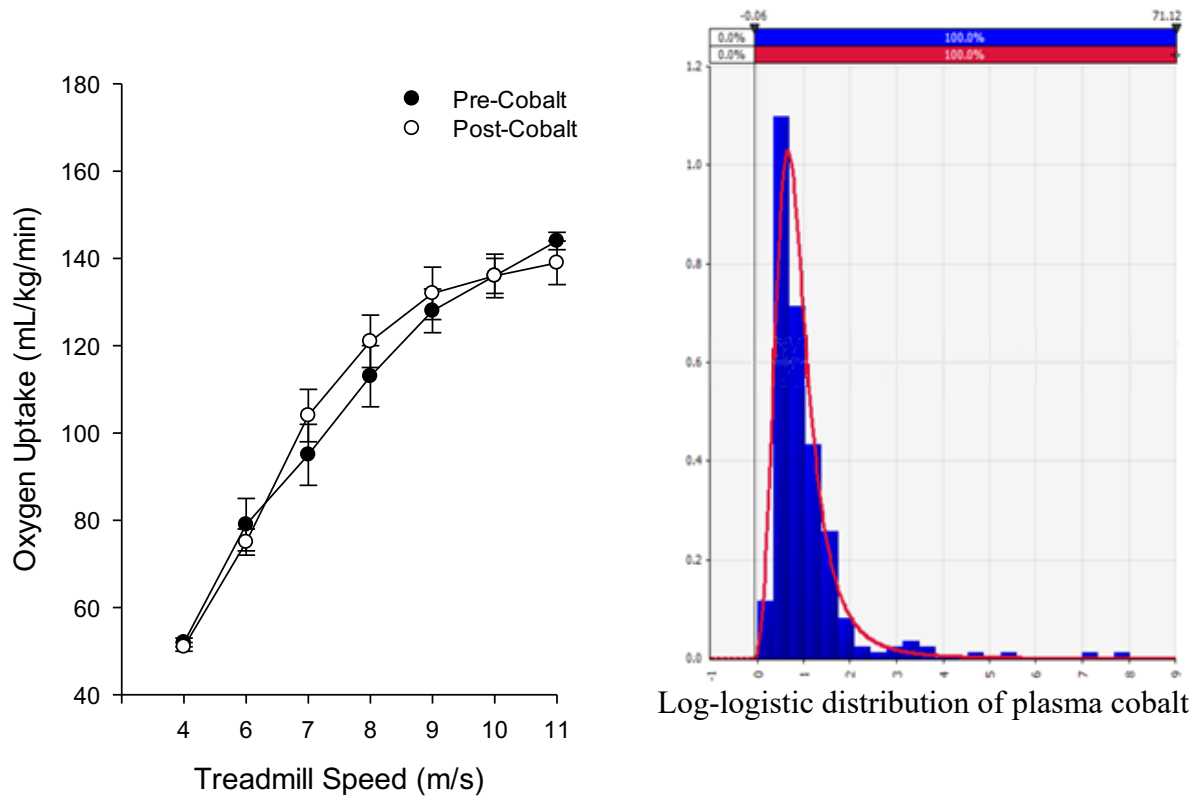
Anyone with a horse that may have inadvertent exposure to cobalt.

- What existing model rules relate to this issue?*

Cobalt threshold.

- Provide relevant quantitative or statistical information if possible.*

Complete research paper attached. Relevant figures below:



McKeever KH, Malinowski K, Fenger CK, Duer WC, Maylin GA. 2020. Evaluation of Cobalt as a Performance Enhancing Drug (PED) in Race Horses. *Comparative Exercise Physiology*, 16(4):243-252, DOI: 10.3920/CEP200001.

C. Possible Solutions and Impact

Provide possible recommendations to solve the problem.

Our proposal brings the cobalt threshold in line with the published literature.

Include details on each proposed solution such as

What solution does this proposal provide?

Horsemen and women will no longer be held responsible for circumstances beyond their control with respect to cobalt.

How will the solution fix the problem?

This establishes a threshold based on appropriate population survey and statistical analysis.

How will the change affect any entities or stakeholders?

Prevents penalizing horsemen for Cobalt between 25 and 70 ppb.

How will you or your organization be affected by the proposed change?

Horsemen and veterinarians will not be penalized for cobalt concentrations beyond their control.

What are the benefits of the proposed change?

ARCI medication rules can and should be revised as science is published to support or refute them. Changing this rule indicates that ARCI can and will adjust rules based on evidence.

What are the possible drawbacks of the proposed change?

None.

Identify possible fiscal impact of the recommended change.

None.

D. Please identify any affected stakeholder groups that expressed support or opposition. (These stakeholders may include the racetracks, breed registries, owners, trainers, jockeys, veterinarians, or others.)

For those stakeholder groups that have expressed an opinion, please list the points on which they agree or disagree, and the arguments they have expressed.

NAARV is the sponsor of this proposal.

Are there any affected stakeholder groups that have not been consulted on this proposal?

This has been provided to the USTA and HBPA

Please submit any formal letters of support or opposition by stakeholder groups.

To Follow.

E. Attach the model rule language you are proposing. Please show new language with underlined text. If you are proposing that current model rule language be eliminated, please strikeout the language to be deleted.

**Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances
And Recommended Penalties Model Rule.
September, 2020 (V.14.3)**

Cobalt (check note)		3	A1	For cobalt concentrations of less than 70 parts per billion (ppb) of blood serum or plasma no penalty is recommended. For concentrations of 70 ppb or greater but less than 300 ppb of blood plasma or serum the recommended penalty is a written warning, the placement of the horse on the Veterinarians List with removal from list only after a blood test confirms that the concentration is below 70 ppb of blood plasma or serum. Testing shall be paid by the owner(s) of the horse. Concentrations of 300 ppb or greater in blood plasma or serum have a recommended "A" penalty.
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F. Do any racing jurisdictions currently have a version of this rule in effect? If yes, please attach copies of those rules.

No

G. 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.

FILING THIS REQUEST WITH RCI DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE MODEL RULES COMMITTEE. IF YOU HAVE OPPOSITION FROM AN INTERESTED PARTY, YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO TRY TO REACH CONSENSUS PRIOR TO FILING THIS FORM.