



NEWS & MESSAGES

15/04

In this letter you'll find

- Extract from FEI Press News 30/04, 13 October 2004
- "Endurance and Doping", by Suzanne Dollinger
- FEI Press News 29/04, 8 October 2004 (doping – procedure)
- FEI Press News, 27 August 2004 (double doping dilemma)

- **Extract from FEI Press News 30/04, 13 October 2004**

Muriel Faienza, FEI Communications

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- **2010 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG)**

Following the request from all three candidates for the 2010 WEG, Kentucky (USA), Basse-Normandie (FRA) and Abu Dhabi/Dubai/Sharjah (UAE), the Executive Board decided to postpone the deadline for submitting the complete bids until 15 November 2004. The Board members then specified the basic conditions for the bids.

- **2004 WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP DUBAI (UAE), 27 January 2005**

The United Emirates Equestrian Federation informed the FEI that the website for the Dubai Championship will officially be open on 1 November 2004.

For more information on the championship and press accreditation, please contact:

sue@emiratesendurance.com, fax 0097 1 43 30 00 70

- **Endurance & Doping**

Suzanne Dollinger

- Within Europe, the FEI operates medication control through the MCP (Medication Control Program).
- According to Bulletins FEI 1/2001 to 4/2004 the MCP has controlled about 4'500 horses from all FEI disciplines throughout Europe since October 2000. A little bit more than 110 horses (ca. 2.5%) have been disqualified by the Judicial Committee of the FEI for positive test results.
- 180 of the above mentioned horses have been tested by the FEI MCP at Endurance events in several European countries (BEL, DEN, ESP, FRA, IRL, ITA, NED, POL, POR, SUI), but mostly in France, Portugal and Ireland. 7 endurance horses (ca. 4%) had to be disqualified by the Judicial Committee of the FEI for positive test results.

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Suzanne Dollinger, 21/10/04

- Worldwide (not controlled by the FEI MCP), about 20 further horses (7 of them endurance horses!) had to be disqualified by the Judicial Committee of the FEI during this time. The total number of controlled horses could not be evaluated.
- Positive tests in all disciplines are mostly the result of pain and inflammation management, followed by the category of sedatives.
- Endurance horses have also and mainly been tested positive for the use of anti-inflammatory drugs like Phenylbutazone, Oxyphenbutazone, Flunixin, Naproxen, Diclofenac and Methylprednisolone. Other drugs found in endurance horses are diuretics, antitussive, management for digestive disorders and once caffeine.

Extract from FEI "Guide to the use & authorisation of veterinary treatment during an FEI Event":

"Medication of horses under FEI rules is strictly controlled and will only be authorised if the appropriate medication forms have been completed and signed:

- Medication Form 1 :
Authorisation for "Emergency Treatment" (i.e. involving medication with Prohibited Substances)
- Medication Form 2:
Declaration of treatment with "Altrenogest" (Regumate) for mares
- Medication Form 3:
Authorisation for the use of "Medication not on the Prohibited Substances" list (i.e. rehydration fluids and antibiotics)

After completing and signing these forms the Veterinary Commission/Delegate should give the provider (i.e. team or treating veterinarian, physiotherapist etc.) a copy of the medication form which can then be shown to FEI Stewards if necessary. These forms are only valid for the one event the horse is competing in."

- Please note:
There are also anti-doping controls for competitors ("in-competition testing" and "out of competition" testing).
- Detailed information concerning MCP and all related matters for horses and riders see FEI website www.horsesport.org under the rubrics "Veterinary", "Legal" and "Medical".
- Website with informations concerning "withdrawal times" and "factors affecting withdrawal times": "An Overview of Effective World Rules on Therapeutic Equine Medication" www.thomastobin.com/rules/
- "Legal procedure" see FEI Press News 29/04 below.

▪ **FEI Press News 29/04, 8 October 2004**

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POSITIVE MEDICATION CASES FOR HORSES AT 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES

The FEI today announces the results of the medication controls for the horses sampled during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Forty horses were sampled (20% of the participating horses), and 4 test results were positive pending any confirmatory analyses.

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ENDURANCE INTERCONTINENTAL

In accordance with FEI medication control procedures the Persons Responsible (PR) for the horses testing positive have been contacted through their National Federations. FEI procedure is to publish names of horses and riders only once the case has completed the FEI legal process described below. The FEI may disclose names at an earlier date if the NF of the rider has agreed.

The procedure for processing these positive medication cases for horses is as follows; however, it is FEI practice to grant continuances when requested and cases may therefore take longer to process:

Samples taken from horses participating in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens were sent to the FEI Central MCP Laboratory in Paris (FRA) for analysis. Standard process time is 1-3 days via courier service; these samples were received at the laboratory within 1-3 days.

The positive cases were forwarded to the FEI Legal Department by the FEI Veterinary Department. Standard process time is approximately 1 month from time of sampling, lab results, approval by FEI Medication Sub-Committee, chain of custody control by FEI Veterinary Department; these cases have taken just over one month.

The Persons Responsible (PR) for the horses have been notified of the positive results via their National Federation (NF). Standard process time is approximately 1-10 days; these cases have taken 5 days.

The PRs will have ten days from notification of their test results to request a confirmatory analysis (B-sample) of the initial analysis (A-sample) and to request an oral hearing before the FEI Judicial Committee.

If a PR does not require a confirmatory analysis, he/she must supply a written explanation as to how his/her horse tested positive or to request the oral hearing within ten days after notification of the results.

If a PR requires a confirmatory analysis, the tests will be run again on the split portion of the sample - the B-sample. The laboratory must begin the testing within 21 days of the request by the FEI Legal Department (standard testing time is approximately 1-3 weeks depending on the complexity of the substance(s)).

The PR will be informed of the B-sample results and if positive must provide an explanation as to how the horse tested positive within ten days of notification of these results (standard process time approx. 1-10 days).

Once the FEI Legal Department has the explanation from the PR it will compile a complete case file which will be submitted to the FEI Judicial Committee for their decision (standard process time approx. 1-10 days).

The PR may alternatively request an oral hearing before the FEI Judicial Committee which would normally be held during the next scheduled meeting but may be arranged at an earlier date if necessary. The PR would normally be notified at the meeting of the decision (approx. 15 days - 3 months).

The majority of positive medication cases are reviewed and decided by the FEI Judicial Committee by correspondence. Each case is distributed to an investigating member of the FEI Judicial Committee who is responsible for proposing a decision. The proposed decision is circulated to the other members for their approval (5-10 days). The FEI Legal Department informs the PR of the FEI Judicial Committee's decision via his/her NF (approx. 1-10 days).

The PR has 30 days to appeal the FEI Judicial Committee's decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Following the decision of the FEI Judicial Committee, the FEI may decide to review the results of the Olympic competitions concerned and inform the IOC accordingly.

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The FEI list of prohibited substances for horses is published on the FEI website www.horsesport.org section veterinary - medication control. The FEI complete legal procedure for positive medication cases is published in the section legal - legal procedure.

▪ **FEI Press News Olympic Update, 27 August 2004**

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Double Doping Dilemma: Equestrian sports unique responsibility

By Bernadette Faurie

Drug testing is integral to sport, integral to Olympic Games. For a top athlete it is part of life, part of competition. For the good guys that is as far as it goes. Probably at best it's just a bore. There is one sport where the process is doubled.

The observers may be medically qualified and mindfully dispassionate, but public micturition is hardly the most discrete procedure to be endured. When the medallists leave the arena at the Markopoulos venue, there the authorities have made every effort to make the process as easy as possible. You can have a choice of straw or wood-shavings in your sample collection stall. The human athlete partnered with another living, breathing athlete of a different species, the horse.

At Olympic level, the three separate equestrian competitions are Eventing, Dressage and Jumping. A total of 205 horses have arrived at the state-of -the-art Markopoulos Equestrian Centre from 38 countries of the globe.

Protecting against drug abuse in equestrian sport is naturally protection against unfair advantage, the preservation of the integrity of the sport. But there's the other side, the protection and welfare of the horse.

While the human athlete has the choice in his own hands, the four-legged athlete is under the human's control. The International Equestrian Federation, governing body of all three disciplines, wants each competition to be won fair and square, and to be seen to have been.

Positive dope tests do occur in equestrian sport. It is perceived as a clean sport and deserves to be, but there are exceptions. Fortunately, the statistics show that offenders are unlikely to get caught out again, and that most cases do not involve intentional efforts to deceive, merely that the horse has been medicated too close to a competition. Undoubtedly the market is always one step ahead of the tests, it always works like that, but with animals there are other facets to the story.

Frits Sluyter, head of the International Equestrian Federation's veterinary department, explains that the issue of the use of drugs - let alone the misuse - is a dilemma. There is far less data and information available for veterinary pharmaceuticals than for the human market. And while products used on livestock for human consumption are routinely tested to provide information on, say, the length of time the medicine remains in the animal's body, provision of that sort of information is not routinely available for the much smaller equine medicine market.

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Approximately fifty horses will be tested throughout the equestrian competitions. The medal winners - both horses and riders - are tested as a matter of course. The remainder are selected at random. It's no more than 'pick a number out of a hat' unless a veterinarian, judge, or official feel a particular case could warrant investigation.

The Laboratoire de Courses Hippiques in Paris, France is the centre used by the FEI for medication control tests. Beyond that there are associated laboratories and reference laboratories that contribute to the increasing library of data necessary to ensure the fairest controls.

"The laboratories are upgrading analytical procedures all the time" said Sluyter. "Tests are evolving to identify more sophisticated substances, and further identification of detectable substances is being fine tuned all the time. The bottom line is that we are interested in any substance that is still having an effect at the time when the horse is competing. It is a compromise, and one which is not always that easy."

For the horses, one minefield that has arisen in recent years is the popularity of herbal feed additives. Valerian, for example, an herb with tranquillising properties, is now on the banned list and is being detected. The FEI does not test, nor does it recommend specific products. But again, the manufacturers' information is a risky benchmark. Herbal feed additives are popular, but can be unstable in their composition.

For humans, each sport has its own list of prohibited substances: Medications that would not affect the performance of an equestrian rider, for example, could well improve a shooter's sharpness. But if a human athlete is using a permitted prescription medicine, the advance declaration TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemption) Standard Application Form, is the route to declaring why and how much medication is needed. Declare is the watchword for riders. If a horse needs to be medicated - for example with so many horses coming in by air, tranquillising a fretful horse is a safety issue - this must also be declared immediately upon arrival to the FEI veterinary commission.

There is no accelerated procedure for the Athens Olympics. Both blood and urine tests are taken - the combination being the best way of ensuring accuracy. We won't hear during the Games if a positive test occurs. But the riders themselves as the 'persons responsible' can take steps to ensure their horses and therefore they themselves do not suffer the ignominy of a positive test. Gold, silver, bronze - all far too valuable to throw away. The value of the partnership, trust and talent of your horse? Incalculable.