

**Ontario
Racing
Commission**

Suite 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 6L2
Tel 416 213-0520
Fax 416 213-7827

**Commission
des courses
de l'Ontario**

Bureau 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto (Ontario)
M9W 6L2
Tél 416 213-0520
Télééc 416 213-7827



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Notice to the Industry

Claims can be ruled invalid if improper medication or drugs found

Through its regulatory actions, the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) is fulfilling its mandate and sending a strong message to all involved in racing – that the illegal use of a therapeutic or non-therapeutic drug will not be tolerated.

At its meeting on July 9, 2009, the Board of the ORC approved changes to the Standardbred and Thoroughbred *Rules of Racing* which reinforce this commitment. These new rules will provide direction on what will happen if a claimed horse is found to have unacceptable levels of medications or drugs during an approved post race test.

With the changes, Judges/Stewards now have the authority, at the option of the claimant, to rule a claim invalid.

As of June 1 2009, the Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency (CPMA) began testing for veterinary approved anabolic steroids. The ORC subsequently implemented a post race user pay system which allows for trainers and owners to have a claimed horse post race tested at their own expense for steroids. This same procedure has allowed trainers and owners to have a claimed horse post race tested for EPO or any of its synthetic derivatives.

The following Directives have been issued and should be referenced.

Standardbred Directive Number 4 – 2009
Thoroughbred Directive Number 3 – 2009

John L. Blakney
Executive Director

“Fair and Safe Racing..... Community Confidence”