

## MEMORANDUM

Date: 26 July 2013  
To: Equine Canada Officials  
From: Craig Andreas, Chief Operating Officer, Equine Canada  
Re: Extraordinary Rule Change re GABA and Injectable Magnesium

I am writing you today to update you with important information regarding recent extraordinary rule changes and changes to the Schedule of Penalties approved by Equine Canada (EC). These changes will require an immediate amendment to the Prize List at any EC-sanctioned competition. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with the information you will need to activate these rule revisions at upcoming EC-sanctioned competitions.

### Background

At the meeting of the Sport Council held at the annual EC Convention, the Sport Council passed a motion prohibiting the practice of using injectable magnesium, gamma amino butyric acid (GABA), or hydroxy-gamma butyric acid (hydroxy-GABA) at EC competitions and empowering competition officials to seize equipment for analysis. The Sport Council then directed the Stewards, Equine Medication Control and National Rules Committees to propose rule revisions and changes to EC policies that would activate this decision.

On 24 June 2013, the National Rules Committee adopted [proposed rule revisions](#) to the EC General Regulations as an extraordinary rule change which were posted to the EC website. On 16 July 2013 the proposed changes to the Schedule of Penalties related to the proposed rule revisions were accepted by the Sport Council. Both changes were effective immediately.

### The changes to the rules regarding the Prize List

The proposed rule revisions which were adopted included a specific change to the mandatory information that is to be included in the Prize List at any EC-sanctioned competition (see General Regulations, A602). The “statement” below must be added immediately to the Prize List of any EC-sanctioned competition. When reviewing Prize Lists for upcoming EC-sanctioned competitions, please ensure that the statement is part of the mandatory information that must be included in the Prize List.

Per Article A801, every entry at an EC-sanctioned competition shall constitute an agreement by the person responsible that the owner, lessee, trainer, manager, agent, coach, driver or rider and horse shall be subject to the EC constitution and all rules of EC and any additional rules set by the competition. It is the responsibility of all individuals participating in any capacity in EC-sanctioned competitions to be knowledgeable regarding the EC constitution and the applicable rules of EC and the additional rules, if any, imposed by the competition. **Do not participate in this EC- sanctioned competition in any capacity if you do not consent to be bound by the constitution and rules of EC and any additional rules imposed by the competition.**

We are aware that a number of competitions have already had their Prize Lists approved and in some cases, printed. As a result, we prepared the following information and sent it to competition organizers to guide them on how to activate this extraordinary rule change at their event depending on the approval status of their respective Prize List.

### Competitions already having an approved Prize List

If the Prize List for the upcoming EC-sanctioned competition has already been approved we asked that each competition organizer take the following immediate steps:

1. Amend all electronic copies of the Prize List to include the above statement.
2. If the Prize List has already been printed, post the statement as an amendment to the Prize List in all common areas at the competition venue including the competition office, barn office, public notice areas, etc.
3. Provide a paper copy of the amendment to entries as they arrive at the competition office (if possible).
4. Confirm with EC, the P/TSO and the senior official who approved the Prize List by email prior to the beginning of the competition that step 1, 2 and 3 have been completed.

### **Competitions with Prize Lists *that have not yet been approved***

If the Prize List for your upcoming EC-sanctioned competition has not already been approved, please take the following immediate steps:

1. If the Prize List has not already been submitted for approval, amend the proposed Prize List to include the above statement.
2. If the Prize List has already been submitted for approval *but is yet to be approved*, amend the proposed Prize List to include the above statement and resubmit it for approval.
3. Post the statement in all common areas at the competition venue including the competition office, barn office, public notice areas, etc.
4. Confirm with EC and the P/TSO by email prior to the beginning of the competition that step 1, 2 and 3 have been completed.

Please note that the steps above sent to the competition organizers instruct them to resubmit the Prize List to the senior official who is reviewing the Prize List if the Prize List had been already submitted, but not yet approved or to confirm with the senior official, if the Prize List has already been approved, that the steps have been completed.

We ask that upon your arrival at the competition venue that you verify that the above listed steps have been completed. Once you have been able to conduct this verification, was ask that please include this information in your respective post-competition reports and email EC and the P/TSO.

### **The changes to the rules to empower officials to seize materials**

The proposed rule revisions which were adopted also included changes to the rules regarding equine medication control and the powers of EC licenced officials to enforce these rules. Specifically, article A1010 was amended to include the following:

If an on duty EC licensed official (i.e. Steward, Judge, Technical Delegate) personally witnesses the injection or attempted injection of a horse at an EC sanctioned competition by any person the licensed official must inform the person that he or she was seen injecting or attempting to inject the horse and the licensed official may then request of that person that all the equipment and materials used for the injection such as but not limited to syringes, medications, vials, containers, cotton, etc. (the injection equipment) be turned over and provided to the licensed official for independent inspection and testing to determine whether any of the following drugs: (i) injectable magnesium, (ii) Gamma amino butyric acid (GABA) or (iii) Hydroxy-gamma butyric acid (Hydroxy-GABA) were present in or on the injection equipment. If, after being asked by the licensed official to provide the injection equipment to the licensed official, the person refuses or fails to comply, such conduct will itself result in a violation with the same sanction to be imposed as a positive analysis report for a class two (2) substance of the EC Drug Classification Scheme.

Of particular note are the provisions in the rule revisions that empower all on duty EC licenced officials to take action if they personally witness the injection or attempted injection of a horse and also that a refusal by a person to comply with a request from an EC licensed official to provide the injection equipment in and of itself constitutes a violation that would result in a violation consistent with the sanction for a class two (2) substance on the EC Drug Classification Scheme.

## Training

To prepare and enable EC licensed officials to activate these rule revisions, the Stewards Committee, in conjunction with the Equine Medication Control Committee and EC staff, is developing training materials that will demonstrate the methodology for EC licenced officials to follow in event that such an activity is witnessed at an EC-sanctioned competition. This training will be made available shortly for all EC licensed officials.

We sincerely appreciate your diligence in addressing these extraordinary rule changes. Should you have any questions regarding the above, I encourage you to contact the team in the competitions department, Kari MacGregor or Krista Desormeaux at 1-866-282-8395 x117 or x141 respectively. I can be reached at x145. Our email addresses as well as those of our colleagues at the P/TSO offices can be found below.

Sincerely,



Craig Andreas  
Chief Operating Officer  
Equine Canada

## Equine Canada Competitions Contacts:

- Kari MacGregor, Program Coordinator, [karimacgregor@equinecanada.ca](mailto:karimacgregor@equinecanada.ca)
- Krista Desormeaux, Competitions Assistant, [kdesormeaux@equinecanada.ca](mailto:kdesormeaux@equinecanada.ca)
- Craig Andreas, Chief Operating Officer, [candreas@equinecanada.ca](mailto:candreas@equinecanada.ca)

## P/TSO Contacts:

- Horse Council British Columbia [competition@hcbc.ca](mailto:competition@hcbc.ca)
- Alberta Equestrian Federation [competitions@albertaequestrian.com](mailto:competitions@albertaequestrian.com)
- Saskatchewan Horse Federation [shfadmin@sasktel.net](mailto:shfadmin@sasktel.net)
- Manitoba Horse Council [mhc.admin@sportmanitoba.ca](mailto:mhc.admin@sportmanitoba.ca)
- Ontario Equestrian Federation [competition@horse.on.ca](mailto:competition@horse.on.ca)
- Fédération Équestre du Québec [infocheval@feq.qc.ca](mailto:infocheval@feq.qc.ca)
- New Brunswick Equestrian Association [hfindlay@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:hfindlay@nbnet.nb.ca)
- Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation [nsefmembership@sportnovascotia.ca](mailto:nsefmembership@sportnovascotia.ca)
- Island Horse Council (PEI) [gevans@upej.ca](mailto:gevans@upej.ca)
- Newfoundland Equestrian Association [kathielane@gmail.com](mailto:kathielane@gmail.com)
- Equestrian Association of Yukon: [equineyukon@gmail.com](mailto:equineyukon@gmail.com)