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Breeders' Cup Adopts Tougher Drug Policy

by Blood-Horse Staff

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Breeders' Cup has added to its medication and testing policy and increased penalties for violators for 2009.

Trainers whose horses test positive for anabolic steroids, which were banned last year, or Class 1 or Class 2 drugs will be banned from participating in the 2010 Breeders' Cup World Championships. Three violations will result in a lifetime ban from the event, Breeders' Cup officials said Aug. 10.

All infractions will bring disqualification and loss of purse. Penalties under regulations in the Breeders' Cup host jurisdiction also will apply.

"The establishment of these new regulations strengthens our number one priority of preserving the integrity of our competition and protecting the welfare of our athletes at the World Championships," Breeders' Cup president and chief executive

officer Greg Avioli said in a statement.

The tougher rules were adopted unanimously by the Breeders' Cup board of directors as recommended by its Racing and Nominations Committee. The Class 1 (highest potential to impact a horse's performance) and Class 2 are categorized by the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

In 2009, there will also be out-of-competition testing for blood-doping agents 10 days prior to the Nov. 6-7 Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita Park, and pre-race TCO2—"milkshake"—testing for all 14 World Championships races in the detention barn.

A failed EPO test would make the horse ineligible for competition and the trainer subject to suspension. Failed tests for TCO2 will result in purse redistributions and suspensions.

The EPO and TCO2 testing policies were first instituted by Breeders' Cup at the 2007 Championships at Monmouth Park.

Here is the official Breeders' Cup policy on penalties:

Effective with the 2009 Breeders' Cup World Championships, for any horse participating in a World Championships race that is found by the racing regulatory agency in the jurisdiction where the race is conducted to have tested positive for any substance listed under Class 1 or Class 2 in the *Association of Racing Commissioners International Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances* or to have violated the steroid rule in effect where the race is conducted, in addition to any penalties imposed by the racing regulatory agency in the jurisdiction, the following sanctions shall be imposed:

The horse shall be disqualified to last in the race, and any purse earned by the horse shall be forfeited and redistributed in accordance with the revised order of finish.

In the event of a first violation of the prohibited substance rule in a World Championships race, the horse's trainer and all horses directly or indirectly in such trainer's care shall be ineligible to participate in the World Championships races conducted in the year immediately following the final determination that such trainer's horse violated the prohibited substance rule.

In the event of a second violation of the prohibited substance rule by a trainer in a World Championships race, the trainer and all horses directly or indirectly in such trainer's care shall be ineligible to participate in the World Championships races conducted in the two years immediately following the final determination that such trainer's horse violated the prohibited substance rule a second time.

In the event of a third violation of the prohibited substance rule by a trainer in a World Championships race, the trainer and all horses directly or indirectly in such trainer's care shall be ineligible to participate in all World Championships races conducted for the remainder of such trainer's life following the final determination that such trainer's horse violated the prohibited substance rule a third time.

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