

**Charles W. Drago**, Secretary

**Charlie Crist**, Governor

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## **Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering Adopts Steroid Ban in Racing Horses**

TALLAHASSEE—Today, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering announced the filing for adoption of rules banning the use of anabolic steroids in race horses. The new rules go into effect on Dec. 30, 2008.

“The adoption of these new rules ensures that Florida is keeping pace with the national racing community and providing for the safety and welfare of the horses and jockeys,” said Secretary Charles W. Drago. “Like other professional athletes, these race horses will remain steroid-free when racing at Florida tracks.”

The rules ban the use of anabolic steroids in race horses and are based on the national Model Rules adopted by the Association of Racing Commissioners International and the Racing and Medication Consortium. Under the new rules, the Racing Laboratory at the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, will be able to utilize more sensitive testing procedures to test for steroids in urine, under its contract with the Division.

The Division will allow a 90-day grace period before the penalty enforcement begins, as proposed by the RMTC. If an anabolic steroid overage is found during this grace period, the trainer will be notified and a warning will be issued by the Division.

Also being adopted are rules prohibiting the use of toe grabs, a form of toe calk used for gripping, with a height greater than two millimeters worn on the front horse shoes of Thoroughbred horses while racing. This rule, recommended by The Jockey Club and adopted by RCI as a Model Rule, will also take effect on Dec. 30, 2008.

The adoption of these rules prior to the Jan. 1, 2009 deadline, which was imposed by the Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association Graded Strakes Committee, ensures that Florida will be in compliance with their requirements and will not jeopardize the state's graded stakes races, such as the Florida Derby.

The rules can be found on the Division's Web site, [www.myflorida.com/dbpr/pmw/index.html](http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr/pmw/index.html).

The Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering is charged with regulating the pari-mutuel industry and licensing those individuals participating in pari-mutuel events.

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation's mission is to license efficiently and regulate fairly. The Department licenses more than one million businesses and professionals ranging from real estate agents, veterinarians, and accountants to contractors and cosmetologists. For more information, please visit [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com)

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