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Louisiana commission passes steroid ban

The Louisiana State Racing Commission approved a rule on Monday banning anabolic steroids in horses on race day.

The regulation will place Louisiana in line with recommendations from the Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Safety Committee and the Association of Racing Commissioners International.

The rule will prohibit exogenous anabolic steroids in a horse's system on race day, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reported. Three endogenous anabolic steroids—boldenone, nandrolone, and testosterone—will not be allowed above naturally occurring physiological levels.

Jerry Meaux, the commission's chairman, indicated the state board would pass an emergency measure if the regulatory process delays implementation of the permanent rule by January 1.

The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's American Graded Stakes Committee is requiring states or racetracks to adopt the RCI model rule as a condition for races to be eligible for graded stakes status in 2009.

The Louisiana commission also banned toe grabs longer than two millimeters for a horse's front feet, which is another condition for graded stakes status in 2009.

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