



# Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit VI

**Dan Fick**

ROAP Board Member  
Track Steward, Prairie Meadows





## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

# Catastrophic Injury Review Protocols

**There is the potential to learn from catastrophic injuries to horses at the racetrack, if catastrophic injury review protocols are developed and implemented.**



**The regulatory or track veterinarians should be entering all equine injuries and other pertinent equine examination information into the InCompass Equine Injury Database System.**



**All deaths at the racetrack should undergo a necropsy examination by an equine veterinarian, preferably at the state veterinary school, with testing of blood, urine and tissue samples as directed by the Regulatory Veterinarians**



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**A Catastrophic Review Committee should be appointed to review the circumstances involved with equine mortalities.**

- **Regulatory Veterinarians**
- **Track Veterinarians**
- **Board of Stewards**
- **Director of Racing Operations**
- **Track Superintendent**
- **Practicing Veterinarians' Representative**
- **Jockey Guild Representative**
- **Horsemen's Association Representative**



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**The following information should be collected:**

- **Race Video Replay**
- **Past Performance Information & Race Charts**
- **EID Injury Report & EID History**
- **Daily Veterinarian Medication Reports**
- **Autopsy Report**
- **Radiographs**
- **Trainer's Training Records**
- **Track Maintenance Records**
- **Lab Drug Test Report**
- **Pre-Race Exam Findings**
- **Insurance Status of the Horse**



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**The following interviews should be conducted by the Investigator, Stewards, and Regulatory Veterinarian.**

- **Trainer & Owner**
- **Jockey & Exercise Rider**
- **Practicing Veterinarian**
- **Perhaps Previous Trainer, Veterinarian & Jockey, if recent change (30 days) in ownership has transpired, especially a claim.**



**The Chief Commission Veterinarian or the Board of Stewards should be the responsible for collecting and maintaining the case study files.**

**Each committee member should receive copies of all of the collected information in order to have ample time to review.**





**When the preliminary autopsy report, drug testing lab results and all the other Resource Review Records have been collected, a Catastrophic Review Committee meeting should be convened as soon as possible.**



**The Catastrophic Review Committee determinations (if any) and recommendations to assist in the avoidance of any future catastrophic incidents (if any) should be appropriately circulated and initiated.**



**Racing Officials Accreditation Program**

# **Stewards' Survey Catastrophic Injury Review Protocols**

**June 18-26, 2015**

**24 Responses**



# Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**Q1 Are horses that die or are euthanized at your racetrack sent for a post mortem necropsy examination?**

**19 Yes**

**5 No**



**Racing Officials Accreditation Program**

**Q2 If yes, where?**

**18 Veterinarian School**

**1 State Animal Health Lab**



# Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**Q3 Are blood, urine and/or tissue samples collect from the dead horse for drug testing?**

**21 Yes**

**3 No**



# Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**Q4 Does your track and/or commission have a standard procedure to review circumstances of on-track catastrophic injuries or other equine deaths?**

**18 YES**

**6 No**



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**Q5 If yes, which of the following individuals are involved in the review?**

- 18 Regulatory Veterinarians**
- 8 Track Veterinarians**
- 12 Board of Stewards**
- 7 Director of Racing**
- 5 Track Superintendent**
- 9 Trainer**
- 5 Jockey**
- 10 Practicing Veterinarian**
- 3 Horsemen's Association Representative**





## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

### **Q6 What information does the committee review concerning the equine death?**

- 14 Necropsy Report**
- 13 Pre-Race Exam Findings**
- 13 Race Video Replay**
- 12 Lab Drug Test Report**
- 12 Past Performance Information & Race Charts**
- 12 EID Injury Report & EID History**
- 11 Daily Veterinarian Medication Reports**
- 7 Radiographs**
- 6 Trainer's Training Records**
- 4 Track Maintenance Records**
- 4 Insurance Status of the Horse**



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**Q8 Have the resultant finding of this process of reviewing catastrophic injuries been beneficial in efforts to reduce equine injuries and fatalities?**

**7 Yes**

**5 No**

**9 Too Soon To Be Determined**



## Racing Officials Accreditation Program

**Q9 If your racetrack/commission does not have a standard protocol for reviewing catastrophic injuries and other equine deaths, would you like to see such a program put in place?**

**12 Yes**

**1 No**