

491—10.4(99D) Racing officials appointed or employed by the commission.

10.4(1) Stewards. There will be three stewards for each racing meet. Two stewards will be appointed or employed by the commission and one will be nominated by the facility under rule 491—10.5(99D), subject to commission approval. Facility nominees for the steward position, and biographical information describing the nominees' experience and qualifications, are due to the commission no later than 45 days before a race meeting begins.

a. Stewards' general authority.

(1) General. The board of stewards for each racing meet oversees the conduct of the racing meet in accordance with the laws of this state, the rules adopted by the commission, and the facility's policies and condition book. The stewards have authority to regulate and to resolve conflicts or disputes among all other racing officials, licensees, and those persons addressed by 491—paragraph 4.6(5) "e" that are reasonably related to the conduct of a race or races and to discipline violators of these rules in accordance with these rules.

(2) Period of authority. The stewards' authority commences 30 days prior to the beginning of each racing meet and terminates 30 days after the end of each racing meet or with the completion of their business pertaining to the meeting.

(3) Attendance. Three stewards will be present in the stand during the running of each race.

(4) Appointment of substitute. Should any steward be absent at race time, the state stewards will appoint a deputy for the absent steward. If any deputy steward is appointed, the stewards will immediately notify the administrator.

(5) Initiate action. The stewards will take notice of questionable conduct or law or rule violations with or without complaint, will initiate investigations promptly, and will render a decision on every objection and every complaint made to them.

(6) General enforcement provisions. Stewards enforce the laws of Iowa and the rules of the commission. The laws of Iowa and the rules of racing apply equally during periods of racing. They supersede the conditions of a race or meet and, in matters pertaining to racing, the orders of the stewards supersede the orders of the officers of a facility. The decision of the stewards as to the extent of a disqualification of any horse in any race is final.

b. Other powers and authority.

(1) The stewards have the power to interpret the rules and to decide all questions not specifically covered by them.

(2) All questions within their authority are determined by a majority of the stewards.

(3) The stewards have control over and access to all areas of the backside and the steward stand.

(4) The stewards have the authority to determine all questions arising with reference to entries and racing. Persons entering horses to run at licensed facilities agree in so doing to accept the decision of the stewards on any questions relating to a race or racing. The stewards, in their sole discretion, are authorized to determine whether two or more individuals or entities are operating as a single financial interest or as separate financial interests. In making this determination, the stewards consider all relevant information, including but not limited to the following:

1. Whether the parties pay bills from and deposit receipts in the same accounts.

2. Whether the parties share resources such as employees, feed, supplies, veterinary and farrier services, exercise and pony riders, tack, and equipment.

3. Whether the parties switch horses or owner/trainer for no apparent reason, other than to avoid restrictions of being treated as a single interest.

4. Whether the parties engage in separate racing operations in other jurisdictions.

5. Whether the parties have claimed horses, or transferred claimed horses, for the other's benefit.

6. If owners, whether one owner is paying the expenses for horses not in the owner's name as owner.

7. If trainers, whether the relationship between the parties is more consistent with that of a trainer and assistant trainer.

(5) The stewards have the authority to discipline, for violation of the rules, any person subject to their jurisdiction and, in their discretion, to impose fines or suspensions or both for infractions.

(6) The stewards have the authority to order the exclusion or ejection from all premises and enclosures of the facility any person who is disqualified for corrupt practices on any race course in any country.

(7) The stewards have the authority to request proof that a horse is itself not disqualified in any respect or nominated by or, wholly or in part, the property of a disqualified person. If proof is not provided to the stewards' satisfaction, the stewards may declare the horse disqualified.

(8) The stewards have the authority at any time to order an examination of any horse entered for a race or that has run in a race.

(9) To maintain necessary safety and health conditions and to protect public confidence in horse racing as a sport, the stewards may authorize one or more persons on their behalf to enter into or upon the buildings, barns, motor vehicles, trailers, or other places within the premises of a facility; to examine the same; to inspect and examine the person, personal property, and effects of any person within such place; and to seize any illegal articles or any items as evidence found.

(10) The stewards will maintain a log of all infractions of the rules and of all rulings of the stewards upon matters coming before them during the race meet.

(11) The state stewards must give prior approval for any person other than the commissioners or commission representative to be allowed in the stewards' stand.

c. Emergency authority.

(1) Substitute officials. When, in an emergency, any official is unable to discharge the official's duties, the stewards may approve the appointment of a substitute and will report the substitution immediately to the administrator.

(2) Substitute jockeys. The stewards have the authority, in an emergency, to place a substitute jockey on any horse in the event the trainer does not do so. Before using that authority, the stewards will in good faith attempt to inform the trainer of the emergency and to afford the trainer the opportunity to appoint a substitute jockey. If the trainer cannot be contacted, or if the trainer is contacted but fails to appoint a substitute jockey and inform the stewards of the substitution by 30 minutes prior to post time, then the stewards may appoint under this rule.

(3) Substitute trainer. The stewards have the authority in an emergency to designate a substitute trainer for any horse.

(4) Excuse horse. In case of accident or injury to a horse, or any other emergency deemed by the stewards before the start of any race, the stewards may excuse the horse from starting.

(5) Exercise authority. No person may exercise a horse on the track between races unless upon the approval of the stewards.

(6) Nonstarter. At the discretion of the stewards, any horse(s) precluded from having a fair start may be declared a nonstarter, and any wagers involving said horse(s) may be ordered refunded.

d. Investigations and decisions.

(1) Investigations. The stewards may, upon direction of the administrator, conduct inquiries and recommend to the commission the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of reports, books, papers, and documents for any inquiry. The commission stewards have the power to administer oaths and examine witnesses. The stewards will maintain records of every such inquiry made by them.

(2) Form reversal. The stewards will take notice of any marked reversal of form by any horse and will conduct an inquiry of the horse's owner, trainer, or other persons connected with the horse including any person found to have contributed to the deliberate restraint or impediment of a horse in order to cause it not to win or finish as near as possible to first.

(3) Fouls.

1. Extent of disqualification. Upon any claim of foul submitted to them, the stewards will determine the extent of any disqualification and place any horse found to be disqualified behind others in the race with which it interfered, or may place the offending horse last in the race. The stewards at their discretion may determine if there was sufficient interference or intimidation to affect the outcome of the race and take the appropriate actions thereafter.

2. Jockey guilty of foul. The stewards may discipline any jockey whose horse has been disqualified as a result of a foul committed during the running of a race.

(4) Protests and complaints. The stewards will investigate promptly and render a decision in every protest and complaint made to them. They will keep a record of all protests and complaints and any rulings made by the stewards and will provide regular reports as requested by the administrator.

1. Involving fraud. Protests involving fraud may be made by any person at any time. The protest is made to the stewards.

2. Not involving fraud. Protests, except those involving fraud, may be filed only by the owner of a horse, authorized agent, trainer, or the jockey of the horse in the race over which the protest is made. The protest must be made to the clerk of scales, the stewards, or a person designated by the stewards before the race is declared official. If the placement of the starting gate is in error, no protest may be made, unless entered prior to the start of the race.

3. Protest to clerk of scales. A jockey who intends to enter a protest following the running of any race, and before the race is declared official, must notify the clerk of scales, or a person designated by the stewards, of this intention immediately upon the arrival of the jockey at the scales.

4. Prize money of protested horse. During the time of determination of a protest, any money or prize won by a horse protested or otherwise affected by the outcome of the race will be paid to and held by the horsemen's bookkeeper until the protest is decided.

5. Protest in writing. A protest, other than one arising out of the actual running of a race, must be in writing, signed by the complainant, and filed with the stewards not later than one hour before post time of the race out of which the protest arises.

6. Frivolous protests. No person may make a frivolous protest, nor may any person withdraw a protest without the permission of the stewards.

e. Cancel wagering. The stewards have the authority to cancel wagering on an individual betting interest or on an entire race, and also have the authority to cancel a pari-mutuel pool for a race or races if such action is necessary to protect the integrity of pari-mutuel wagering.

f. Postpone or cancel races.

(1) When necessary, the stewards, commission veterinarian, and appropriate personnel will meet to determine whether races scheduled for a given day should be postponed or canceled. For this paragraph's purposes, "appropriate personnel" means a representative of the facility, a representative for each association representing horse owners, and a jockey representative. If the stewards, commission veterinarian, and appropriate personnel are not in agreement, the stewards will make the final decision. When the circumstances necessitating a postponement or cancellation decision are emergent or otherwise make it impracticable to convene the stewards, commission veterinarian, and appropriate personnel for input, the stewards will make the final decision.

(2) Postponement or cancellation may occur for one or more of the following reasons: inclement weather, including but not limited to lightning or extreme heat or humidity; air quality; track conditions; any other circumstance or condition that may endanger the safety and welfare of horses, racing participants, or both; or any other circumstance or condition that may call into question the integrity of racing.

10.4(2) Commission veterinarian.

a. The commission veterinarian employed or appointed by the commission advise the commission and the stewards on all veterinary and animal welfare matters.

b. The commission veterinarian has supervision and control of the detention barn for the collection of test samples for the testing of horses for prohibited substances as provided in Iowa Code sections 99D.23(2) and 99D.25(9). The commission may employ or appoint persons to assist the commission veterinarian in maintaining the detention barn area and collecting test samples.

c. The commission veterinarian cannot buy or sell any horse under their supervision, wager on a race under their supervision, or be licensed to participate in racing in any other capacity.

d. The stewards or commission veterinarian may request any horse entered in a race to undergo an examination on the day of the race to determine the general fitness of the horse for racing. During the examination, the commission veterinarian may request all bandages be removed by the groom and the horse be exercised outside the stall to determine the condition of the horse's legs and feet. The examining veterinarian will report any unsoundness in a horse to the stewards.

e. A commission veterinarian will inspect all of the horses in a race at the starting gate and, after the finish of a race, will observe the horses upon their leaving the track.

f. The commission veterinarian will place any horse determined to be sick or too unsafe, unsound, or unfit to race on a veterinarian's list that will be posted in a conspicuous place available to all owners, trainers, and officials.

g. A horse placed on the veterinarian's list in Iowa, bleeders exempt, may be allowed to enter only after it has been approved by the commission veterinarian. Any horse placed on the veterinarian's list will be removed from any future race in which the horse has been entered. Requests for the removal of any horse from the veterinarian's list will be accepted only after at least three calendar days have elapsed from the placing of the horse on the veterinarian's list. Removal from the list is at the discretion of the commission veterinarian, who may require satisfactory workouts or examinations to adequately demonstrate that the problem that caused the horse to be placed on the list has been rectified. Horses that are entered to race and then placed on the veterinarian's list for any reason will not be allowed to enter a race for at least three calendar days beginning the day after the horse was scheduled to race.

h. Every confirmed bleeder, regardless of age, will be placed on the bleeder list and be ineligible to race for the following time periods:

- (1) First incident – 14 days.
- (2) Second incident within 365-day period – 30 days.
- (3) Third incident within 365-day period – 180 days.
- (4) Fourth incident within 365-day period – barred for racing lifetime.

When counting the number of days a horse is ineligible to run, the day the horse bled externally is the first day of the recovery period. The voluntary administration of furosemide without an external bleeding incident will not subject the horse to the initial period of ineligibility specified in subparagraph 10.4(2) "h" (1). A horse may be removed from the bleeder list only upon the direction of the official veterinarian, who must certify in writing to the stewards the recommendation for removal. A horse that has been placed on a bleeder list in another jurisdiction pursuant to these rules will be placed on a bleeder list in this jurisdiction.

i. The commission veterinarian supervises and ensures that the administration of furosemide and phenylbutazone complies with Iowa Code section 99D.25A.

j. The commission veterinarian or commission representative takes receipt of veterinary reports required by Iowa Code section 99D.25(10) and these rules.

[ARC 0187D, IAB 4/1/26, effective 5/6/26]