

## **RIDER DRUG TESTING**

### **1 Purpose of policy**

- 1.1 The drug testing of riders is of vital importance to the safety of all participants and the integrity of racing and it is imperative that the following procedures are followed when directing a rider to submit a urine specimen for analysis:

### **2 Powers to implement policy**

- 2.1 Under the provisions of AR 22 (1)(h)+(j) Stewards are empowered to take, or cause to be taken, a sample from any rider prior to or after riding in any race, trial or track work.
- 2.2 AR 110(4) requires that a rider must undertake to submit to any tests that are intended to detect the presence of any alcohol, drug or its metabolites or artifacts.

### **3 Integrity and identity of the collected urine specimen**

- 3.1 Precautions are to be taken to ensure the following:
- that a specimen is not, substituted, adulterated or diluted prior to or during the collection procedure
  - identify of the individual from whom the specimen was collected is noted on the RWWA Collection Sample Form

### **4 Individuals present during urine specimen collection**

- 4.1 The rider selected for urine specimen provision is the Specimen Donor (Donor).
- 4.2 The rider and witness shall be present during the collection and sealing processes. This process must be witnessed by a person such as a licensed senior rider, RWWA licensee or other designated person as approved by the Stewards. Such person is required to observe the collection and sealing procedures and sign the official documentation to this effect. The person witnessing the process is known as the Independent Witness (Witness).
- 4.3 The official administering the specimen collection is known as the Specimen Collector (Collector).
- 4.4 Female Donors' procedure shall be officiated by an appropriate female witness.

### 5 Direction to provide a specimen

- 5.1 In order to detect the presence of any banned substances, a urine specimen must be obtained.
- 5.2 A Donor selected for drug testing during a race meeting is to be advised by the Steward in Charge of the meeting or the on-course Investigator that a urine specimen is to be provided by them prior to leaving the course. For trials and track work, this direction is to be given by a Steward or Investigator and in the presence of a second official when possible. A notation will be made of the rider selected to provide a sample. (Then if a rider does not present – a record has been made of the notification)
- 5.3 The Donor will be provided with the location and time to present himself / herself for specimen provision.
- 5.4 When the Donor is ready to provide a urine specimen, the Donor should advise the Collector. Donor, Collector and Witness should meet at the designated specimen collection location.
- 5.5 If the Donor's conduct causes concern for RWWA Officials then the RWWA Officials may request that the Donor proceed immediately to the designated collection area to provide a specimen.
- 5.6 It is permissible to provide the Donor with fluids to assist with the provision of a urine specimen, the fluids must be from sealed containers, or taken directly from a tap or water fountain. Consumption must be supervised by the Collector.

### 6 Collection procedure

#### 6.1 Preparation

The specimen collection procedure should be conducted in a private area.

- 6.1.1 The toilet and general area checked for hidden equipment or devices to protect the integrity of the sample.
- 6.1.2 There should not be any other accessible source of water in the immediate area where the urine specimen is voided.
- 6.1.3 If the above integrity protection measures are not able to be enforced then other measures should be adopted to protect the integrity of the specimen.
- 6.1.4 Upon arrival of the Donor, his/her identity should be confirmed, if identity is not established the Collector shall not proceed with the collection.
- 6.1.5 Prior to commencing the specimen provision, the collection and sealing processes should be explained by the Collector to the donor so that the entire procedure is fully understood by all parties.
- 6.1.6 The Collector shall wash his / her hands thoroughly prior to commencing the process and must then wear disposable rubber gloves throughout the sealing process.
- 6.1.7 The Donor shall wash his/ her hands thoroughly prior to providing the specimen, must remain in the presence of the Collector and should not have access to any materials or substances that may compromise the integrity of the urine specimen.
- 6.1.8 The Collector shall ensure that the Witness will be present during the collection and sealing processes.

- 6.1.9 Privacy entitlements are to be respected, however every effort must be made by the Collector to ensure the integrity of the specimen by allowing no opportunity for it to be substituted or adulterated.
- 6.1.10 Donors should be asked to present in a towel where possible. Collector must ensure that the Donor's arms and hands are clearly visible.

### 6.2 Collection of urine specimen

- 6.2.1 The Collector should directly supervise the Donor prior to the specimen being delivered and then position him or herself to have an unobstructed view of specimen provision.
- 6.2.2 The Collector should also listen as the urine specimen is delivered and confirm that the specimen appears normal as presented in the collection beaker and that the specimen records a temperature within the required parameters.
- 6.2.3 A donor may be asked to remove any towel or item of clothing if the Collector suspects the integrity of the sample is being compromised by a donor.

### 6.3 Post specimen provision process

- 6.3.1 The Donor providing the specimen must observe the handling, sealing and packaging procedures of the specimen and sign the official documentation to this effect.
- 6.3.2 During the collection process, the Donor must be asked if they have taken any prescribed or non-prescribed medication in the preceding seven days. It is important that all medications including dietary supplements are declared at this time and then listed on the official documentation as such information is necessary for analytical purposes.
- 6.3.3 To ensure the integrity of the specimen provided a visual inspection shall be undertaken.

### 6.4 Creatinine level of specimen

- 6.4.1 If the specimen provided lacks colour this may indicate excessive hydration and may result in a void specimen. In such a circumstance a further sample must be collected from the donor.
- 6.4.2 A Donor who provides a specimen that is unable to be analysed on the basis of a low creatinine level is to be contacted immediately after such advice is received from the analyst and is then to be directed to provide a further specimen as soon as possible.
- 6.4.3 If a Donor provides consecutive dilute specimens or appears to be purposely avoiding providing a specimen then such a matter is to be referred to the Chief Steward or Steward in Charge of the meeting - who will assess whether that person should be stood down from riding under the provisions of AR139(3) until such time as a proper specimen is delivered and declared free of any banned substances.

- 6.4.4. If the specimen's creatinine concentration is less than 200mg/L it will be rendered void under AR139(5)(a) Following analysis outlining this result the Chief Steward or their delegate will be advised.
- 6.4.5. In this case the donor is contacted by the Stewards/Investigators and arrangements are made for the donor to supply a further sample as early as possible AR139(5)(b).

### 6.5 Temperature of specimen

- 6.5.1 All unusual or abnormal findings must be noted on the permanent record system and on the chain-of-custody form.

### 6.6 Donor inability to provide specimen

- 6.6.1 If a Donor is not able to provide a specimen for legitimate medical reasons such as dehydration or illness, that Donor is then allowed further time on that day to provide a specimen.
- 6.6.2 The Donor should not be instructed to consume excess fluids prior to giving a specimen as this may lead to the specimen being diluted and cause a creatinine concentration of less than 200mg/L.
- 6.6.3 Female Donors experiencing menses are obliged to undertake testing and provide a specimen when directed.

## 7 The testing kit

- 7.1 Is provided by Western Diagnostics in a heat sealed plastic security cover.

## 8 Custody and transportation of specimens

- 8.1 Stewards and Investigators are responsible for the proper handling and transport of a completed sample – to be correctly stored – transported to and entered in the Security Room at Ascot.

## 9 Analysis and results

- 9.1. Specimens are analysed by the ChemCentre which is equipped to test for drugs of addiction, diuretics and anorectics. Results should be available within five working days.
- 9.2. Each specimen undergoes a general screening process (immunoassay or comparable technique) and in the event of the detection of a banned substance it will then be subject to confirmatory analysis. It is only after the process of confirmatory analysis that the Chief Steward of Thoroughbreds is advised of the detection of a banned substance. Confirmatory analysis may include quantitative analysis and drug concentration will be stated on the official report if applicable.
- 9.3. If the concentration of the banned substance is in excess of that allowed, then that rider is immediately contacted by the Stewards or Investigators and will be stood down from riding until an inquiry is held under the provisions of AR139(3)

- 9.4 If a Donor wishes to have the result verified, he/she is to be afforded the right of having the reserve portion of the original specimen being sent to another accredited laboratory for secondary confirmatory analysis.

*“The RIDER DRUG TESTING POLICY is applicable for use in both the Thoroughbred and Harness Codes and therefore any reference to Rider is also deemed to be a reference to Driver for the purpose of Human Swabbing in Harness Racing. This policy also applies to Horse Handlers. Likewise any reference to Ascot is also deemed to be a reference to Gloucester Park”.*

Amended January 2006  
Amended April 2011  
Amended December 2012  
Amended 9 September 2014  
Amended 18 May 2016  
Amended 29 March 2017  
Reaffirmed 1 March 2020