

**AQHA Policy Concerning Awards and  
Publicity  
of Horses and/or Trainers with Racing Medication  
Positives**

For purposes of this policy, the term “Violation” shall mean:

(a) a positive test for a Class 1 substance, Class 2 substance, Class 3 substance, Clenbuterol, any prohibited substances in the presiding jurisdiction, or any medications on the ARCI Uniform Classification of Foreign Substances that is assigned a penalty of A or B;

(b) failure to report for out of competition testing; or

(c) a summary suspension.

**1.** If a racing jurisdiction reports a Violation for a horse, such horse and record trainer as of the violation date<sup>1</sup> in question (“Offending Trainer”):

(a) shall be ineligible to be considered for AQHA awards associated with the calendar year in which the Violation occurred; this will include pending appeals of violations; and

(b) shall, unless waived by AQHA, be ineligible to be included in AQHA media (online and publications) during the calendar year in which the Violation occurred; this will include pending appeals of violations.

If a trainer is summarily suspended by a jurisdiction, Sections 1.(a-b) above apply to the horses in which the trainer was the record trainer as of the effective date the summary suspension. Likewise, if an owner is summarily suspended by a jurisdiction, Sections 1.(a-b) above apply to the horses in which in which the owner was the record owner as of the effective date the summary suspension.

**2.** All horses that record an official start under the Offending Trainer anytime in the calendar year **AFTER** the expiration of thirty (30) days of an Offending Trainer’s Violation being published on the AQHA website:

(a) shall be ineligible to be considered for AQHA awards associated with the calendar year in which the Violation occurred; this will include pending appeals of violations; and

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this policy, the term “violation date” shall mean the date of the race in which the test sample was taken and resulted in a positive test or, the effective date of a summary suspension, or, in the case of failing to report for out of competition testing, the date on which the horse(s) were to be presented for testing.

(b) shall, unless waived by AQHA, be ineligible to be included in AQHA media (online and publications) during the calendar year in which the Violation occurred; this will include pending appeals of violations.

3. A horse that has recorded an official start under the Offending Trainer anytime in the calendar year **PRIOR** to the violation date but has **NOT** been entered into an official race under the Offending Trainer anytime in the calendar year **AFTER** the Violation confirmation date to be eligible to be considered for AQHA awards and included in AQHA media if AQHA is able to independently verify either (a) or (b) below:

(a) The owner, in addition to complying with (c) below, moved the horse to another licensed trainer in good standing and notified AQHA in writing of such move on or before the expiration of thirty (30) days of the Offending Trainer's Violation being published on the AQHA website. Such new trainer must meet the following requirements:

- (i) was a licensed trainer in the calendar year immediately prior to the calendar year in which the Violation occurred;
- (ii) did not have a Violation in the previous year;
- (iii) started a horse under his/her own license as a trainer in the calendar year immediately prior to the calendar year in which the Violation occurred;
- (iv) was (and is) not the assistant trainer or an employee of the Offending Trainer during the calendar year of the Violation; and
- (v) is not the spouse or "immediate family member" (defined by AQHA RuleSHW220.1) of the Offending Trainer.

(b) The owner, in addition to complying with (c) below, removed the horse from the care and control of the Offending Trainer on or before the expiration of thirty (30) days of the Offending Trainer's Violation being published on the AQHA website and the horse has no further starts during the calendar year of the Violation.

(c) The owner must submit official test results from an AQHA approved laboratory confirming that a hair sample from the horse did not test positive for a Class 1 substance, Class 2 substance, Clenbuterol, any prohibited substances in the presiding jurisdiction in which the original Violation occurred or any medications other than those defined by ARCI as being a Controlled Therapeutic Medication. Such hair sample must be collected by a regulatory veterinarian who must confirm in writing the identity of the horse and the date the hair sample was collected. AQHA will not accept test results of a hair sample

collected prior to the removal of the horse from the Offending Trainer. The owner is responsible for all expenses incurred for the collection and testing of the hair sample.

4. A horse in the care and control of an Offending Trainer that has **NOT** recorded an official start under the Offending Trainer **PRIOR** to the violation date but subsequently records a start under a new trainer may be eligible to be considered for AQHA awards and included in AQHA media if the requirements set forth in 3.(a) above are met.

5. If a horse is ineligible to be considered for AQHA awards and included in AQHA media pursuant to the above provisions, its race records and earnings shall also be ineligible to be considered for any AQHA awards associated with the calendar year in which the Violation occurred.

6. A report of Violations can be found here [AQHA Policy](#). Such report lists: (a) Offending Trainers that have had a Violation or was Summarily Suspended during the calendar year; (b) horses that have had a Violation during the calendar year; and (c) horses that have not had a Violation during the calendar year but are reported as having started for an Offending Trainer during the calendar year. With respect to horses that have not had a Violation during the calendar year but are reported as having started for an Offending Trainer during the calendar year, such horses are ineligible to be considered for AQHA awards and included in AQHA media unless the requirements set forth in this policy are met.