

**PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET**  
**Kentucky Horse Racing Commission**  
**(Amended at ARRS Committee)**

**810 KAR 4:010. Horses.**

RELATES TO: KRS 230.215

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 230.215(2)(a), (c), 230.260(8)

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 230.215(2)(a) and (c) and 230.260(8) authorize the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission ~~the "commission"~~ to promulgate administrative regulations regulating horse racing in Kentucky. This administrative regulation establishes requirements for the participation of horses in horse race meetings, protects the safety and welfare of the horse, and creates a level playing field for participants thereby protecting the integrity of pari-mutuel wagering.

Section 1. Definition. "Electronic registration system" means a software application available online and approved by the commission that allows an association's racing secretary or the secretary's designee, or horse identifier or the identifier's designee, full access to horse and trainer records from all tracks in North America, including current owner information.

Section 2. Registration and Identification Required.

(1) A horse shall not be entered or raced in Kentucky unless:

- (a) The horse is duly registered, as applicable, in The Jockey Club breed registry, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Appaloosa Horse Club, the Arabian Horse Association Registry, or the American Paint Horse Association, or their respective successors; and
- (b)
  - 1. The registration certificate, virtual or digital certificate, or racing permit issued by the applicable breed registry for the horse is on file with the racing secretary; or
  - 2. The information contained on the registration certificate, virtual or digital certificate, or racing permit is available to the racing secretary through the electronic registration system.

(2) The stewards may at any time require presentation of a horse's registration certificate, virtual or digital certificate, or racing permit or other proof of ownership.

(3) Upon claim, sale, or any other transfer of ownership, the horse's registration certificate or racing permit shall be given to the new owner, and any virtual or digital certificate shall be transferred to the new owner electronically. The new owner shall report the change in ownership to the stewards.

(4) If the electronic registration system fails for any reason, the stewards may require presentation of a horse's registration certificate, virtual or digital certificate, or racing permit prior to a horse being entered or raced in Kentucky.

Section 3. Ringers Prohibited.

(1) A horse shall not be entered or raced in Kentucky designated by a name other than the name under which the horse is currently registered with the applicable breed registry. If a horse's name is changed with the applicable breed registry, and the horse has raced under its previous name, the horse's former name shall be shown parenthetically in the daily race program the first three (3) times the horse races after the name change.

(2) A person shall not cause or permit the correct identity of a horse to be concealed or altered. A person shall not refuse to reveal the correct identity of a horse that he or she owns or is in his or her care to a racing official or member of the regular news media.

(3) A horse shall not race in Kentucky unless identified by:

- (a) A legible lip tattoo number applied by agents of the Thoroughbred Racing and Protective Bureau, or by the comparable authorized organization applicable to the breed of the horse;
  - (b) An electronic horse identification microchip that accurately identifies the horse, is compliant with the international standards ISO 11784, is verified by agents of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, or its successor, and is documented in The Jockey Club database or by the comparable authorized organization applicable to the breed of the horse; or
  - (c) With regards to a horse from a foreign jurisdiction participating in a graded stakes race, has otherwise been correctly identified to the stewards' satisfaction.
- (4) A horse shall not be entered or raced in Kentucky if previously involved in a "ringer" case to the extent that:
- (a) A person having control of the horse knowingly entered or raced the horse while designated by a name other than the name under which the horse was registered with The Jockey Club; or
  - (b) The person having control of the horse participated in or assisted in the entry or racing of some other horse under the name registered as belonging to the horse in question.

#### Section 4. Denervng.

- (1) A horse that has had a chemical, surgical, or thermal neurectomy at or above the fetlock shall not be permitted to race.
- (2) A horse that has had a palmar or plantar digital neurectomy may be permitted to race if:
  - (a) The neurectomy has been reported by the trainer to the stewards; and
  - (b) The horse has been approved for racing by the commission veterinarian prior to being entered to race.
- (3) A horse on which a neurectomy has been performed shall have that fact designated on its registration certificate, virtual or digital certificate, racing permit, and entry in the electronic registration system. Responsibility for ensuring that the neurectomy is correctly noted on the horse's registration certificate, virtual or digital certificate, racing permit, and entry in the electronic registration system shall fall:
  - (a) Jointly on the practicing veterinarian who performed the operation and the trainer of the denerved horse if the neurectomy was performed at a location under the commission's jurisdiction; and
  - (b) Solely on the owner of the denerved horse if the neurectomy was performed at a location not under the commission's jurisdiction.
- (4) If a horse races in violation of this administrative regulation and participates in the purse distribution, then a protest shall not be considered unless submitted in writing to the stewards within forty-eight (48) hours after the race.
- (5) If a horse races in violation of this administrative regulation and is claimed, then a protest shall not be considered unless the successful claimant submits a protest in writing within forty-eight (48) hours after the race requesting the claim be voided. If the claim is voided, the horse shall be returned to the owner who started the horse in the race, and the claim price shall be returned to the claimant.
- (6) A list of all denerved horses shall be posted in the racing secretary's office.

#### Section 5. Health Certificate Required.

- (1) A horse shall not be stabled on the grounds of a licensed association or any training center under the jurisdiction of the commission unless a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is issued by an accredited veterinarian:
  - (a) Not more than ten (10) days prior to the horse's arrival on the grounds; or

(b) Within a lesser interval as prescribed by the racing association in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

(2) Notice of this requirement shall be included in the stall application of all licensed associations and training centers under the jurisdiction of the commission and all condition books of licensed associations.

Section 6. Workouts. A horse shall not be schooled in the paddock or taken onto a track on association grounds for training or workout, other than during normal training hours posted by the association, without special permission of the stewards.

Section 7. Thoroughbred Age Restrictions.

(1) A maiden six (6) years of age or older that has made five (5) life time starts on the flat shall not be entered or start.

(2) A first time starter five (5) years of age or older shall be approved by a commission veterinarian prior to entry.

Section 8. Other Age Restrictions. A quarter horse, paint horse, Arabian, or Appaloosa horse six (6) years of age or older shall not be entered or raced in a race restricted to maidens. A horse thirteen (13) years of age or older shall not be entered or raced.

Section 9. Fillies and Mares Bred.

(1) A filly or mare that has been covered by a stallion shall:

(a) Be so reported to the racing secretary prior to being entered in a race; and

(b) Not be entered in a claiming race, unless a written release from the stallion owner is attached to the filly's or mare's registration certificate, or otherwise provided to the stewards, indicating that the stallion service fee has been paid or satisfied.

(2) A list of all fillies and mares so reported, showing the names of stallions to which they have been bred, shall be posted in the racing secretary's office.

(3) A filly or mare in-foal shall not be entered in a race 120 days or more after the date of last cover.

Section 10. Serviceable for Racing. A horse shall not be entered or raced that:

(1) Is not in serviceable, sound racing condition. The stewards may at any time require a horse on association grounds to be examined by a qualified person;

(2) Is posted on a veterinarian's list, stewards' list, or starter's list in any racing jurisdiction, unless the horse on a veterinarian's list, stewards' list, or starter's list has a posted off date on or before the date of the race for which it is being entered;

(3) Has previously raced, but has made no starts in the last 365 days or more, unless approved by a commission veterinarian prior to entry;

(4) Is suspended in any jurisdiction;

(5) Has been administered any drug in violation of 810 KAR 8:010;

(6) Is blind or has seriously impaired vision in both eyes;

(7) Is not correctly identified to the satisfaction of the stewards; or

(8) Is owned wholly or in part by or is trained by an ineligible person.

Section 11. Equipment.

(1) Riding crops and blinkers shall be used consistently on a horse while racing.

(2) Permission to change use of any equipment used on a horse from its previous start shall be obtained from the stewards.

(3) A horse's tongue may be tied down during a race with a clean bandage or gauze.

(4) A horse's bridle shall not weigh more than two (2) pounds.

(5) Bits shall be of a metallic alloy base of stainless steel or aluminum and may be encased in rubber, plastic, or leather.

(6) War bridles and bitless bridles shall not be used.

(7) Bar shoes may be used for racing only with permission of the stewards.

(8) Any goading device, chain, spurs, electrical or mechanical device, or appliance, except for a riding crop, that can be used to alter the speed of a horse shall not be used on a horse in a race or workout.

(9)

(a) Any riding crop shall be subject to inspection and approval by the stewards or the clerk of the scales to ensure conformity with the specifications of paragraphs (c) through (e) of this subsection.

(b) Only riding crops meeting the specifications of this subsection, including the mandatory shock absorbing characteristics, may be used in thoroughbred racing and training.

(c) A riding crop shall have a:

1. Maximum weight of eight (8) ounces;
2. Maximum length, including flap, of thirty (30) inches; and
3. Minimum diameter of the shaft of three-eighths (3/8) inch.

(d)

1. The only additional feature that may be attached to the riding crop is a flap that shall have a:

- a. Maximum length from the end of the shaft of one-half (1/2) inch; and
- b. Maximum width of one and six-tenths (1.6) inches, with a minimum width of eight-tenths (0.8) inch;

2. The flap from the end of the shaft shall not contain any reinforcements or additions;

3. There shall not be binding within seven (7) inches of the end of the flap;

4. The contact area of the shaft shall be smooth, with no protrusion or raised surface, and covered by shock absorbing material throughout its circumference; and

5. The flap shall have similar shock absorbing characteristics to that of the contact area.

(e) A riding crop shall not have:

1. Stingers or projections extending through the hole of a popper; and
2. Any metal parts.

(10)

(a) Except as ~~established~~ ~~set forth~~ in paragraph (c) of this subsection, the ~~The~~ following shall not be used on the front shoes of horses while racing or training on any racing surface:

1. Horse shoes that have toe grabs;
2. Bends;
3. Jar calks;
4. Stickers; and
5. Any other traction device worn on the front shoes of horses.

(b) Wear plates with a height no greater than two (2) millimeters may be used on the front shoes of horses while racing or training.

(c) Front horse shoes on quarter horses may have a toe grab that measures up to four (4) millimeters from the ground surface side of the shoe. Hind horse shoes on quarter horses may have a toe grab, that measures up to one-quarter (1/4) inch from the ground surface side of the shoe.

(11) Indiscriminate or brutal use on a horse of a riding crop or any other equipment, as determined by the stewards, at any time on the grounds of a licensed racing association or training center under the jurisdiction of the commission shall be prohibited.

Section 12. Sex Alteration. Any alteration in the sex of a horse shall be reported by the horse's trainer to the racing secretary and to the appropriate breed registry applicable to the

horse. The alteration shall be noted on the horse's registration certificate, racing permit, virtual or digital certificate, or entry in the electronic system.

Section 13. Reporting Death of Horse. A licensed racing association or training center under the jurisdiction of the commission shall report the death or euthanization of any horse on its grounds immediately to the chief commission veterinarian.

Section 14. Postmortem Examination. A horse that dies or is euthanized on the grounds of a licensed association or training center under the jurisdiction of the commission shall undergo a postmortem examination at the discretion of the commission. If a postmortem examination is conducted:

- (1) All shoes and equipment on the horse's legs shall be left on the horse;
- (2) The commission, through its designee:
  - (a) Shall take possession of the horse upon death;
  - (b) Shall, if commission personnel are present, collect and submit for analysis blood, urine, bodily fluids, or other biologic specimens immediately, if possible before euthanization occurs; and
  - (c) Shall coordinate with the owner or owner's licensed authorized agent to determine and address any insurance requirements.
- (3) The remains of the horse shall not be returned after completion of the postmortem examination.
- (4) The presence of a prohibited substance in a specimen collected during the postmortem examination may constitute a violation of 810 KAR 8:010.

Section 15. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) "ISO 11784", 2004 is incorporated by reference.
  - (2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, 4063 Iron Works Parkway, Building B, Lexington, Kentucky, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This document is also available on the International Organization for Standardization ("ISO") Web site at ~~the following URL:~~ <https://www.iso.org/standard/38799.html>.
- (45 Ky.R. 1915; 3113; eff. 5-31-2019; 47 Ky.R. 1274, 1965; eff. 7-6-2021; 48 Ky.R. 2626; eff. 10-4-2022; 50 Ky.R. 470, 1284; eff. 3-5-2024.)

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CONTACT PERSON: Jennifer Wolsing, General Counsel, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, 4063 Iron Works Parkway, Building B, Lexington, Kentucky 40511, phone (859) 246-2040, fax (859) 246-2039, email [jennifer.wolsing@ky.gov](mailto:jennifer.wolsing@ky.gov).