



The New York Racing Association

Racing and Training Alcohol Testing Policy

The New York Racing Association (NYRA) creates world-class experiences that advance the sport of horse racing with integrity, safety and innovation. NYRA strives to promote athlete safety and uphold the integrity of the racing product to ensure fair and safe contests for all participants.

Promoting safety during racing requires the implementation of a race day alcohol testing program to ensure that jockeys are not impaired while riding in races and starting gate personnel are not impaired while loading and handling horses at the starting gate.

Promoting safety during training requires the ability to perform breath alcohol tests for reasonable suspicion during training hours to ensure that anyone on horseback or otherwise in control of a horse on a racing or training surface during training hours is not impaired.

In addition, NYRA House Rules include provisions and prohibitions for alcohol use in Part 4, Stable Area, Section 4, Alcohol Use or Sale.

Breath Alcohol Testing Devices and Technicians

A certified Breath Alcohol Technician (BAT) will administer each breath alcohol test using a testing device listed on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Conforming Products List for Evidential Breath Alcohol Measurement Devices (EBT).

Effective November 2024, NYRA will use the Alco-Sensor IV with Memory as the EBT device.

An Accuracy Check will be done on each EBT device every two weeks and after a positive Confirmation Test. The results of every Accuracy Check will be recorded in a Calibration Logbook.

NYRA will designate and assign a certified Breath Alcohol Technicians (BAT) for each race card and during training hours. The BAT will conduct all tests and will log all results.

Alcohol Testing During Racing

NYRA's Policy for Alcohol Testing During Racing was developed pursuant to HISA Rule 2191, Drug and Alcohol Testing.

NYRA mandates that every jockey submit to a breath alcohol test prior to their first scheduled mount on every race card. In addition, up to three members of the day's assigned starting gate personnel may be selected at random for breath alcohol testing prior to the start of the card.

Jockeys and starting gate personnel may be subject to additional breath alcohol testing for reasonable suspicion during the race card.

Jockeys and randomly selected starting gate personnel will be required to report for testing a minimum of one (1) hour prior to their first scheduled race of each race day. Steward's permission is required to test at less than one hour prior to first post. Failure to test prior to 30 minutes prior to post will be considered a violation. Refusal to test will be considered a violation.

A reading above .000 will be considered a positive test. In the event of a positive test, the jockey or starting gate employee will remain in the secure area for 15 minutes to complete a Confirmation Test. During this period, the jockey or starting gate employee may not eat, drink, or put anything into their mouth. If the Confirmation Test is positive, the BAT will perform an Accuracy Check on the device.

A jockey with a positive test and positive Confirmation Test will not be allowed to ride and will be referred to the Board of Stewards to determine if any further penalties will be imposed, including but not limited to, licensing considerations.

A starting gate employee with a positive test and positive Confirmation Test will not be allowed to work the card.

In addition to mandatory pre-race testing, the Board of Stewards may request administration of a breath alcohol test of a jockey or starting gate employee in the following circumstances:

- An incident involving a horse in which impairment could be a factor,
- Reckless or negligent activity in which impairment could be a factor,
- Observed or reported alcohol use, or
- Other conduct or circumstances that create reasonable suspicion.

Alcohol Testing During Training

NYRA's Policy for Alcohol Testing During Training is intended to ensure that all riders and other racing participants who are on horseback or in control of a horse on a racing or training surface during training hours are not impaired.

The Safety Stewards and Outriders will monitor training hours and watch for any behavior that could warrant reasonable suspicion testing. A Safety Steward may request that a breath alcohol test be administered in the following circumstances:

- An incident involving a horse in which impairment could be a factor,
- Reckless or negligent activity in which impairment could be a factor, or
- Observed or reported alcohol use.
- Random selection when the NYRA Steward has been previously notified and has approved that random testing may take place on a designated training day.

Individuals selected for reasonable suspicion testing shall report to the private area designated by NYRA for testing.

A reading above .000 will be considered a positive test. In the event of a positive test, the racing participant will remain in the secure for 15 minutes to complete a Confirmation Test. During this period, the individual may not eat, drink, or put anything into their mouth. If the Confirmation Test is positive, the BAT will perform an Accuracy Check on the device.

A racing participant with a positive test and positive Confirmation Test will not be allowed to participate in the remainder of training hours and will receive a Barn Area Violation ticket. Penalties will be determined at the Barn Area Violation Panel Hearing.

A racing participant who has been instructed not to participate in the remainder of training hours but is found to be on horseback or in control of a horse during that time will receive an additional Barn Area Violation ticket and may be subject to stronger penalties.

Resources

Individuals in need of resources or treatment programs are encouraged to contact the Backstretch Employees Service Team (B.E.S.T.), which offers on-track licensed outpatient drug and alcohol treatment. More information about B.E.S.T. can be found at <http://bestbackstretch.org/>