

## NRHA Medications Program FAQ

*I'm new to NRHA- where do I find information on the NRHA Medications Program?*

There are several different locations to find information!

- The current *NRHA Handbook* - E. Animal Welfare and Medications Provisions Applicable to all NRHA Events.
- [NRHA.com/welfare](http://NRHA.com/welfare)
- NRHA Medications Card
- USEF Medications Hotline Number 1-800- 633-2472

*My horse needs medication- but I have an NRHA competition coming up- how do I know if I will be in compliance with the NRHA rules?*

The first step is to speak with your veterinarian. Let them know you compete with NRHA and provide them with a current *NRHA Handbook* so they are up-to-date on the current rules. If your veterinarian is unsure, you can call the USEF medications hotline to see where the medication would be classified (they do not recommend dosages- this is the job of your veterinarian). The Handbook can be found online at [NRHA.com/handbook](http://NRHA.com/handbook).

*I am administering a medication that is on NRHA's list of allowable controlled substances- where can I find the allowable limit for competition, and the with dosage and withdrawal time recommendations?*

All limits for medications that NRHA classifies as controlled and permitted in competition are located in the current *NRHA Handbook*. Dosage and withdrawal recommendations for these specific medications are located on a medications card which NRHA can send to you upon request. This also is available online at [NRHA.com/welfare](http://NRHA.com/welfare). When competing at NRHA-approved events, always fill out a medications report form and submit it to the show office.

*What is a medications report form?*

This is a form used to identify the competing horse and the medications administered to it, complete with time, date, and dosage information. This form should be filled out in its entirety, and the horse's registered name should be listed. The exhibitor is responsible for turning in the form to the show office. Upon receipt, the office staff will date and sign the form. For their records, exhibitors should take a copy of the report form with the show office signature and date stamp.

*Where do I find a medications report form?*

- [NRHA.com/welfare](http://NRHA.com/welfare)
- Show Office

*If a medication is allowed to be used in NRHA competition- can I still receive a medications penalty for its use?*

Yes. You can have an overage of an allowable substance (permitted substance), and therefore limits are provided. The limit is the amount of the medication allowed in the sample from the horse at the time of competition. A sample containing more than this amount is considered a positive (failed) test.

*The NRHA Handbook mentions "NSAID"- what is an "NSAID"?*

"NSAID" stands for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. They are common therapeutic substances used to treat inflammation.

*Can I compete on multiple NSAIDs?*

You can compete on a horse that has been given one allowable NSAID, but more than one would be considered "stacking." This would receive a medications penalty unless used in accordance with *Section 8: Conditions for Therapeutic Administrations of Forbidden Substances* of the NRHA Handbook.

*What is stacking?*

NSAID "Stacking" occurs when a post-run sample is found to contain the presence of more than one non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, commonly known as NSAIDs. (*Section 8 of the NRHA Handbook, Conditions for Therapeutic Administrations of Forbidden Substances, lists two emergency exceptions for colic, ophthalmic injury or minor laceration*)

*Can I use CBD on my horse in NRHA competition?*

CBD, or cannabidiol, is currently a banned (forbidden) substance with NRHA and cannot be used in NRHA competition.

*Where can I look up the classification of a substance?*

You can find a link on [NRHA.com/welfare](http://NRHA.com/welfare). This will redirect you to another database, but the classifications listed here are consistent with NRHA classifications. The NRHA allowable controlled substances (restricted) can be found in the current *NRHA Handbook* and on the medications card.

*Where can I find the NRHA Animal Welfare and Medications Policy?*

The NRHA Animal Welfare and Medications policy is located on [NRHA.com/welfare](http://NRHA.com/welfare).

*I have verified the medication I need to provide to my horse is either an allowable controlled medication or allowable under the Section 8: Conditions for Therapeutic Administrations of Forbidden Substances- what do I need to do at the event?*

Immediately upon administration of the medication, a medications report form should be filled out completely- using the horse's registered name- and submitted to the show office. The member should make sure to take a copy for their records.

*Does a medications report form guarantee that I will not come back with a medication's penalty?*

No. If the use of the medication was not used under the provisions of *Section 8: Conditions for Therapeutic Administrations of Forbidden Substances*, then you will receive a medications penalty even if you fill out the form. However, if you do not fill out the form, even if you are using it in accordance with *Section 8*, you will receive a medications penalty for not submitting the form.

*Whose responsibility is it if the horse comes back positive with a substance?*

The rider (exhibitor) is the person considered responsible. It is important to verify with your trainer, owner, and grooms to know exactly what has been administered prior to competition, and to actively communicate with your team to avoid a rule violation.

*When during an event am I no longer in need of following NRHA medications rules?*

NRHA can test any horse competing in NRHA classes at any point during an NRHA-approved event. If your horse needs medical attention, attend to your horse and be sure to file completed medications reports forms with the show office afterward. Make sure the date and time is noted on the administration.

*What happens if I have been randomly selected for testing?*

A testing technician will greet you upon exiting the arena and will introduce themselves as part of the NRHA testing team. They will walk with you back to your stall and stay with you while you untack your horse. They will ask you questions regarding the horse and will ask you to review the sample card and to verify that the information is all correct. The card has a unique number that corresponds with the labels that will be placed on the samples. The veterinarian will come (if they are not there already) and will collect a blood sample A and sample B. Once the samples are sealed, they will ask you to sign off that you have reviewed the process from start to finish. At this point the process is complete.

*I have heard that it can take a long time to be tested- is this true?*

NRHA used to collect both urine and blood samples, and the urine collection could take up to 45 minutes. Currently, NRHA only collects blood which has a quicker collection time.

*What happens if I won a class and as a champion I am being tested?*

If you are competing at an NRHA event where the champions are being tested, it is your responsibility to maintain that the horse remains in compliance with NRHA rules until the sample is collected. If your horse has competed but has not been tested yet, and needs medications, attend to your horse and immediately fill out and submit to the show office a medications report form, date and time stamped by the veterinarian who administered the medication, and by the show office. Remember to take a copy. When you get tested, mention to the testing team to record in the notes that you did administer medication after competition and have turned in a medications report form.

*What happens if I refuse to be tested?*

In the event you do not comply with medications testing, an official protest with NRHA will be filed for unsportsmanlike conduct. This can lead to membership suspension, fines equal to the highest penalty, disqualification, and/or other penalties.

*What happens to the sample after it is collected from my horse?*

The samples are shipped to the testing lab who will complete analysis in accordance with NRHA rules.

*Who receives the results from the lab and what happens with the positive results?*

Results are communicated to the appropriate NRHA staff who verify there are violations. Any positive samples who have an associated submitted medications reports form are to determine if the use of the medication was used in accordance with *Section 8*. If there is a violation, the rider (exhibitor) and owner will be notified in writing via email. Additionally, physical copy is mailed to both parties with supporting documents (results confirming horse and rider pair, substance classification verification, results from lab, and sample ID card showing matching sample numbers).

*My medications violation letter says that I can request sample B be tested - what does this mean and how long do I have to do it?*

An NRHA member with a medications violation has 15 days from the date of the letter to inform NRHA in writing that they would like to request testing sample B. This request should be made if you feel there was an error in the analysis of sample A. If you request to test sample B, you will be responsible for all

costs associated. The sample will be tested at a separate lab. NRHA will identify the second lab and will notify you, however both parties must agree. Once the lab is agreed upon, NRHA will send the sample for analysis. When the results are confirmed, they will be communicated to NRHA who will then communicate them to the you. If the analysis of sample B identifies an error in the analysis of sample A, NRHA will cover the costs of testing sample B. If the analysis confirms the results from Sample A, NRHA will issue the invoice for the lab fees and any medications penalties will stand.

*My medications violation letter says that I can request a hearing – what does this mean and how long do I have to do it?*

An NRHA member with a medications violation has 15 days from the date of the letter to inform NRHA in writing that they would like to request a medications hearing. This should be done if the member feels like they can reduce their penalties by informing the hearing body of their situation and why the substance is in the sample. If requested, NRHA will organize a date and time with the hearing body which will be communicated to you. The hearing body will be notified of the case, however will not be informed of your name/the horse's name/event. At this hearing you can introduce yourself if you choose and speak to your case and have anyone present you wish. However, you must disclose who is present on the call with you. After the hearing is completed, the hearing body will reconvene to discuss the case and outcome. The outcome is then relayed to the competitor and owner.

*Who is on the medications hearing body?*

The makeup of the Medications Hearing Body is confidential.

*Can I appeal the outcome of the medications hearing?*

The competitor does have the option to appeal to the NRHA Executive Committee (EC) if they so choose. At this time, NRHA staff will coordinate a date and time with the EC and relay that to the competitor. The process operates as the medications hearing does- however his/her name would be relayed to the EC. At this time if the penalties remain, the name would then be published (if applicable), applicable fines would stand (issued at the time of the initial violation letter), the rider and horse would be disqualified (if applicable - requiring the return of all money and awards to be redistributed), and suspension/probation would take effect from the last day of the event for the time set.

*My medications violation letter says I have a medications probationary period- what is that?*

This is a pre-determined period of time tracked from the first violation. If you receive another medications violation in that time, your penalties would advance to a second offense, and so on.

*What happens if I received another medications violation within my medications probationary period?*

We determine the penalty assessed by first looking at the classification of the substance used during the second offense. Then, the penalty is what is listed on that row and in the second offense box.

*My medications violation letter says my name will be published- where does it get published and for how long?*

All suspensions and violations are posted in *ReinerSuite* under the "Library." Your name will remain there for the length of your suspension or medications probationary period.

*My medications violation letter says that I have been disqualified- do I need to do anything?*

If you won money and/or prizes you will be required to return those to the show secretary for redistribution.