



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Table of Contents

About DFSI & HIWU	3
Leadership	4
Operations	6
Results Management	10
Legal & Adjudications	12
Proposed ADMC Program Rule Modifications	14
Investigations	15
Science	16
Education & Outreach	20
Glossary	22



hiwu.org



drugfreesport.com



info@hiwu.org



(816) 285-1425



4801 Main Street, Suite 350
Kansas City, MO 64112



[HIWUNews](#)



[HIWUNews](#)



[Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit \(HIWU\)](#)

Download the free
HIWU mobile app



Text an
anonymous tip



Scan To Text Your Anonymous Tip



About DFSI & HIWU

Drug Free Sport
INTERNATIONAL™

HIWU
Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit

Drug Free Sport International (DFSI), together with International Doping Tests & Management (IDTM) and the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU), forms one of the world's most comprehensive and trusted providers of anti-doping services. Across these integrated divisions, the organization delivers end-to-end solutions that include sample collection, results management, education, and global program administration.

DFSI and IDTM collectively operate in more than 100 countries, supporting a wide range of professional and amateur sport organizations. Their clients include major professional leagues and federations such as **MLB, the NFL, the NBA, NASCAR, the PGA Tour, the LPGA, UFC, the International Tennis Federation, World Athletics, the NCAA, and more than 300 colleges, universities, and amateur athletics organizations worldwide.**

HIWU extends this expertise to U.S. Thoroughbred racing, serving as the independent enforcement agency of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority's (HISA) Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program. Through HIWU, the organization oversees sample collection, investigations, results management, education, and laboratory accreditation for the first national anti-doping and medication control program in the Thoroughbred racing industry.

Together, DFSI, IDTM, and HIWU deliver a dynamic, global platform designed to protect athlete health, promote fair competition, and strengthen integrity across both human and equine sports.



Leadership

Meet Our Leadership Team



BEN MOSIER
Executive Director



MICHAEL HARDY, DVM
Acting Chief of Science



KATE MITTELSTADT
Chief of Operations



MICHELLE PUJALS, JD
General Counsel



SHAUN RICHARDS
Chief of Investigations

HIWU Advisory Council

Jonathan Taylor, KC (Chairman)
Partner,
Bird & Bird

Larry Bowers, Ph.D.
Chief Science Officer Emeritus,
United States Anti-Doping Agency

Larry Bramlage, DVM, MS, DACVS
Shareholder Emeritus,
Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital

Sonja Keating, JD
General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer,
United States Equestrian Federation

Günter Younger
Director of Intelligence & Investigations,
World Anti-Doping Agency



Letter from Leadership

Empowered by more than 18 months of data and experience under the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority's (HISA) Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program, HIWU's approach to a successful 2025 was twofold: continuing the processes that had proven to be effective thus far, while launching new initiatives to enhance the Program, including working with industry stakeholders in reviewing proposed ADMC Program Rule modifications.

The beginning of the year saw the **long-awaited launch of the HISA Equine Analytical Laboratory (HEAL) Accreditation Program**. In advance of this launch, preparation involved not only immense work by the Science team on the back end, but also maintaining an open dialogue with existing Program laboratories so that they were aware of the rigorous quality assurance standards that they would be expected to meet to achieve HEAL Accreditation.

With the oversight of the independent Laboratory Expert Group and the multi-pronged approach of the External Quality Assessment Scheme to monitor compliance, Covered Persons can feel confident in the capabilities and consistency of all Program laboratories. As evidenced by the changes in our lineup of Program laboratories in 2025, **only those that can meet HEAL standards will be granted accreditation**, and action will be taken if a Program laboratory does not comply with those standards.

Building on momentum from 2024, HIWU continued to invest in a holistic approach to increase collaboration among our Operations, Investigations, and Science departments. By leveraging each department's skillsets, data, and IT resources, HIWU is able to **facilitate alignment in test distribution planning, sample analysis, and investigative work**. This coordination results in increased effectiveness at identifying those who commit Rule violations, which is a key metric of the Program's success.

HIWU leadership has spent countless hours working with HISA's ADMC Committee to **fine-tune the proposed revisions in the ADMC Rules** that were shared for informal public comment before they are ultimately submitted to the Federal Trade Commission for approval. Substantial effort was made to appropriately regulate anti-doping and medication control in Thoroughbred racing, while **ensuring fairness toward horsemen**. We expect the industry to be pleased with the proposed modifications, which we think strike that balance, and as a result, benefit all Covered Persons.

HISA and HIWU recognize that regulations must be science-based, and we are thankful to the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium's (RMTC) Scientific Advisory Committee for their **new recommended Minimum Reporting Level for metformin** in response to a three-part study. We look forward to this continued partnership with the RMTC when the need arises to evaluate specific Prohibited Substances.

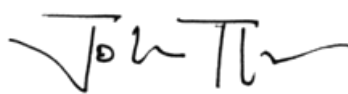
Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Mary Scollay and Dr. Larry Bowers for their service to HIWU. Dr. Bowers retired from his role on HIWU's Advisory Council at the end of 2025, and Dr. Scollay retired from full-time duties as chief of science over the summer. Dr. Scollay's commitment to the horse racing industry has spanned nearly four decades, and she was crucial to the development of the ADMC Program Rules as part of her role on the inaugural ADMC Committee. We are incredibly grateful for her contributions.

HIWU's successes reflect the benefits of continued engagement with all industry stakeholders and a dynamic mindset to always be looking for opportunities to make the ADMC Program better for all participants, both human and equine.

Sincerely,



Ben Mosier
HIWU Executive Director



Jonathan Taylor, KC
HIWU Advisory Council Chairman

Operations

Administering a **strategic and effective Test Distribution Plan (TDP)** is the core mission of HIWU's Operations team. To do so involves more than simply selecting horses for testing; it requires professionalism throughout the lifecycle of the sample collection process. In 2025, HIWU leveraged new technologies that further professionalize sample collection and processing, while also seeking new opportunities to enhance testing strategy.

Launch of Learning Management System (LMS)

The Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program Rules require that Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) undergo regular recertification and training to ensure that they understand and comply with the requirements of the ADCM Program. **In July, HIWU launched a digital Learning Management System (LMS) to facilitate the training of SCP nationwide.**

Track Support

While the LMS is a valuable tool, it does not completely replace in-person support, and the HIWU Operations team continued with racetrack visits throughout the year on a scheduled and as-needed basis, with **support offered at 30 Covered Racetracks.**

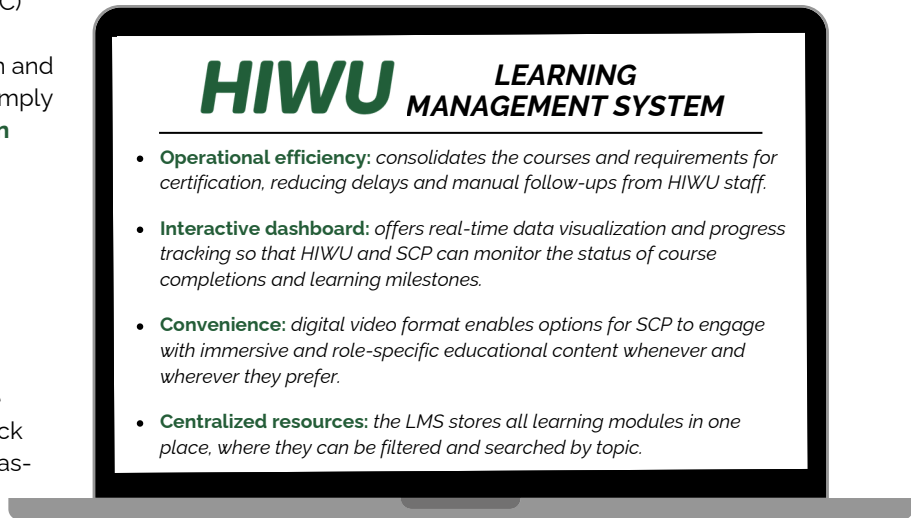
Enhancements and Uniformity in Sample Collection Equipment, Shipping, and Logistics



The HIWU Operations team implemented a series of positive changes to equipment, shipping, and logistics throughout the year. In March, they introduced **standardized sample collection equipment** at all racetracks covered by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA). HIWU worked with InnoVero, a global leader in providing innovative collection technologies to anti-doping organizations worldwide, in the design and customization of this equipment while utilizing feedback from staff, SCP, and Program laboratories.

Key changes include, but are not limited to, improved packaging, additional tamper evident features, the inclusion of QR codes for scanning, custom-designed collection cups and collection sticks, and improved shipment logistics and tracking.

Additionally, HIWU partnered with Industrial Laboratories to **streamline the distribution of sample collection equipment and shipping logistics** nationwide. This change facilitates efficiencies at the Program laboratories by decreasing the amount of time they must devote to these tasks, thus promoting more focus toward analytical and scientific endeavors.

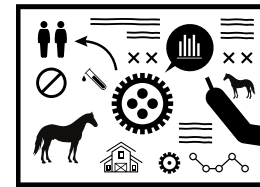


About HIWU's Testing Strategy

HIWU's mandate to administer the ADMC Program extends beyond testing alone. While HIWU is confident that the range of Test Types conducted under the ADMC Program effectively detect and deter prohibited activities, the work of HIWU's other departments – namely, Investigations and Science – are equally crucial. HIWU's teams engage across departments to share information that can be used to inform test selection, analyses, and investigations.

To further advance HIWU's strategies, staff attended a Palantir bootcamp to initiate a long-term plan to build **AI models that will inform risk analysis, testing, and investigative approaches**. This relationship builds upon HISA's use of the Palantir technology to build tools to assess whether individual Covered Horses are at an increased risk for injury.

HIWU sees significant potential in utilizing this type of modeling to help determine risk assessment in relation to Covered Horses and Covered Persons. By identifying those who represent a threat to integrity and/or welfare, HIWU can effectively and efficiently allocate resources.



How does HIWU decide which Covered Horses to test?

- Risk Assessment
- Tips and Investigations
- Past Performance
- Prior Test History
- Qualifying Status for Major Events
- Trainer and Owner Affiliations



HIWU's testing is NOT random

- Covered Horses can be selected for testing at any time for any reason.
- All testing can include the collection of blood, urine, and/or hair.
- There are multiple Test Types that HIWU can conduct, each with a different purpose and associated with a different scope of analysis.

Test Type	When	Substances Regulated
Post-Race	After race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banned Substances & Methods • All Controlled Medications & Methods*
Vets' List	After timed workout; Before return to racing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banned Substances & Methods • All Controlled Medications & Methods*
Post-Work	After timed workout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banned Substances & Methods • LIMITED Controlled Medication Substances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Analgesics ◦ Corticosteroids ◦ Local Anesthetics ◦ Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Out-of-Competition (OOC)	Anytime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banned Substances & Methods
TCO2	Before race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Carbon Dioxide (TCO2) Concentration

*Please note that furosemide (Lasix), which is considered a Controlled Medication, is ONLY regulated in Post-Race testing.

Testing Numbers and Trends

HIWU's OOC Testing program continued to expand in 2025. Under HIWU, there are consistent OOC Testing standards at every racetrack and the ability to conduct sample collection on both live racing days, including the day a Covered Horse is entered to race, and dark days. As appropriate, OOC Testing under the ADMC Program includes urine and hair sample collections in addition to blood to increase detection capabilities for Banned Substances. This is an **improvement** compared to the limited scope of testing matrices that were analyzed as part of OOC pre-HISA.

Furthermore, HIWU conducted more Sample Collection Sessions per race in 2025 despite a decrease in total Sample Collection Sessions that correlated with an overall decrease in races.

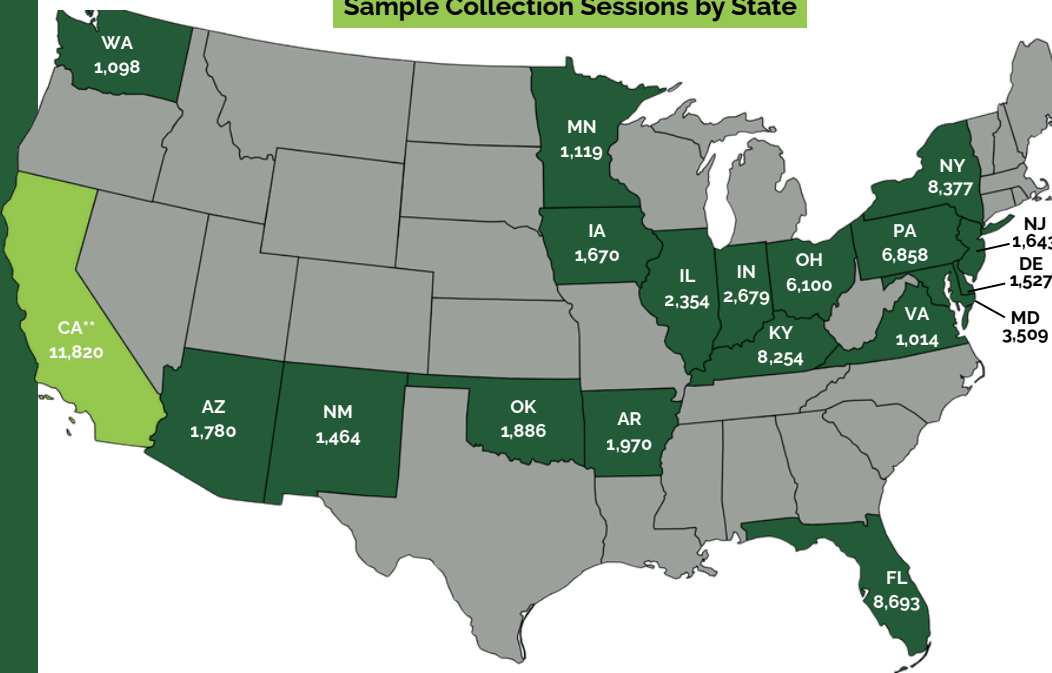
The efficacy of nationwide standards for all states covered by HISA promotes a level playing field for all participants, while maximizing safety and welfare. Since all Test Types utilized by HIWU serve an important role in detecting and deterring prohibited activities, the allocation of resources toward each Test Type is evaluated on an ongoing basis to determine how HIWU can most effectively administer the TDP.



What is a Sample Collection Session?

A Covered Horse completes one Sample Collection Session each time it is selected for testing. A Sample Collection Session may include the collection of blood, urine, and/or hair. Each Covered Horse may be subject to multiple Sample Collection Sessions throughout its racing career.

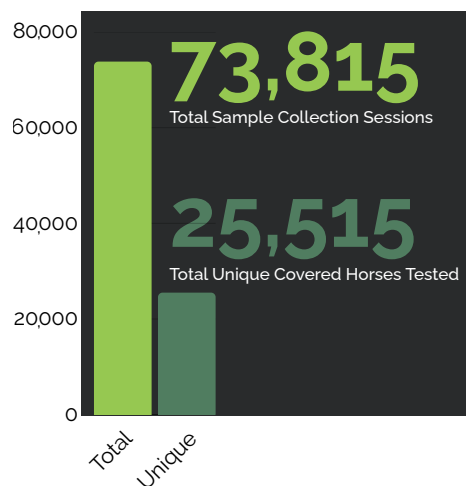
Sample Collection Sessions by State



	Total Sample Collection Sessions	Total Adverse Analytical Findings
AR	1,970	8
AZ	1,780	18
CA**	11,820	33
DE	1,527	10
FL	8,693	41
IA	1,670	7
IL	2,354	9
IN	2,679	12
KY	8,254	35
MD	3,509	21
MN	1,119	1
NJ	1,643	4
NM	1,464	17
NY	8,377	46
OH	6,100	31
OK	1,886	12
PA	6,858	40
VA	1,014	4
WA	1,098	9
TOTAL	73,815	358

HIWU collected samples on **364 days** in 2025 - every day but December 25

Sample Collection Sessions



**The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) requested and funded TCO2 Testing for 50% of all entries at racetracks in Southern California (Del Mar and Santa Anita).

Total Sample Collection Sessions (SCS) by Test Type, State, and Location

State	Location	Post-Race*	TCO2	OOC	Vets' List	Clearance	Post-Work	Total SCS per Track	Total SCS per State	Total Races per State
AR	Oaklawn Park	1,169	503	119	175	1	3	1,970	1,970	611
AZ	Turf Paradise	1,094	339	174	169	0	4	1,780	1,780	644
CA**	Del Mar	1,077	2,043	243	44	0	1	3,408	11,820	1,670
	Los Alamitos	735	1,009	208	135	0	4	2,091		
	Santa Anita Park	2,034	3,549	295	256	0	19	6,153		
	Training Centers/Other	-	-	48	120	-	-	168		
	State Total by Test Type	3,846	6,601	794	555	0	24	11,820		
DE	Delaware Park	1,011	225	169	118	0	4	1,527	1,527	613
FL	Gulfstream Park	3,827	1,769	411	220	0	6	6,233	8,693	2,757
	Tampa Bay Downs	1,291	472	161	172	0	2	2,098		
	Training Centers/Other	-	-	184	171	-	7	362		
	State Total by Test Type	5,118	2,241	756	563	0	15	8,693		
IA	Prairie Meadows	1,046	409	152	62	0	1	1,670	1,670	575
IL	Fairmount Park	575	217	123	87	0	1	1,003	2,354	913
	Hawthorne	832	275	144	99	1	0	1,351		
	State Total by Test Type	1,407	492	267	186	1	1	2,354		
IN	Horseshoe Indianapolis	1,659	681	162	175	0	2	2,679	2,679	931
KY	Churchill Downs	2,069	792	220	143	0	1	3,225	8,254	2,018
	Ellis Park	524	198	65	21	0	0	808		
	Keeneland	758	428	96	113	0	2	1,397		
	Kentucky Downs	176	157	2	0	0	0	335		
	Turfway Park	1,337	570	122	138	0	1	2,168		
	Training Centers/Other	-	-	114	206	-	1	321		
	State Total by Test Type	4,864	2,145	619	621	0	5	8,254		
MD	Laurel Park	2,084	444	204	179	0	7	2,918	3,509	1,167
	Pimlico	133	121	39	0	0	0	293		
	Timonium	113	27	0	0	0	0	140		
	Training Centers/Other	-	-	92	66	-	-	158		
	State Total by Test Type	2,330	592	335	245	0	7	3,509		
MN	Canterbury Park	729	222	128	38	2	0	1,119	1,119	366
NJ	Far Hills	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1,643	514
	Meadowlands	110	58	0	0	0	0	168		
	Monmouth Park	871	355	141	84	0	4	1,455		
	Training Centers/Other	-	-	18	-	-	-	18		
	State Total by Test Type	983	413	159	84	0	4	1,643		
NM	Downs at Albuquerque	256	75	66	47	0	0	444	1,464	535
	Suntland Park	391	128	70	50	0	0	639		
	Zia Park	256	63	38	8	0	1	366		
	Training Centers/Other	0	0	15	0	0	0	15		
	State Total by Test Type	903	266	189	105	0	1	1,464		
NY	Aqueduct	2,579	1,238	1	0	0	0	3,818	8,377	2,574
	Belmont	-	-	355	301	5	15	676		
	Finger Lakes	1,325	365	173	101	0	5	1,969		
	Saratoga	1,046	609	177	74	0	8	1,914		
	State Total by Test Type	4,950	2,212	706	476	5	28	8,377		
OH	Belterra Park	1,220	443	118	140	0	1	1,922	6,100	2,339
	Mahoning Valley	1,317	473	97	92	1	0	1,980		
	Thistledown	1,380	531	136	145	0	6	2,198		
	State Total by Test Type	3,917	1,447	351	377	1	7	6,100		
OK	Remington	845	352	106	100	0	0	1,403	1,886	783
	Will Rogers Downs	333	77	40	32	1	0	483		
	State Total by Test Type	1,178	429	146	132	1	0	1,886		
PA	Parx Racing	2,191	481	347	205	0	5	3,229	6,858	2,762
	Penn National	1,387	437	261	91	0	2	2,178		
	Presque Isle	968	282	136	63	0	2	1,451		
	State Total by Test Type	4,546	1,200	744	359	0	9	6,858		
VA	Colonial Downs	670	251	70	23	0	0	1,014	1,014	397
WA	Emerald Downs	631	246	92	128	0	1	1,098	1,098	412
Total SCS by Test Type		42,051	20,914	6,132	4,591	11	116	73,815	73,815	22,581

*Post-Race SCS include Claiming samples

**The CHRB requested and funded TCO2 Testing for 50% of all entries at racetracks in Southern California



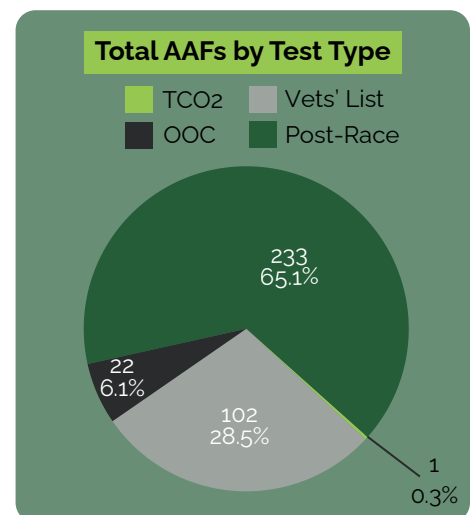
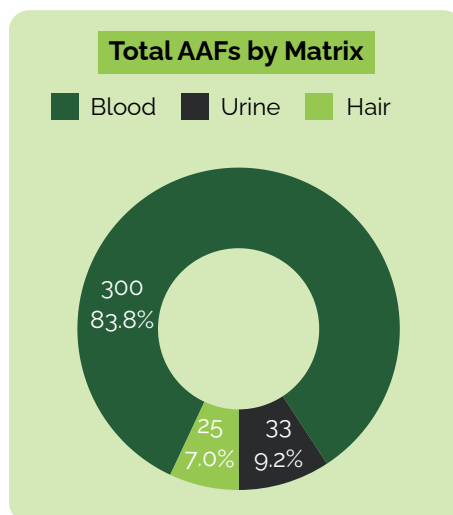
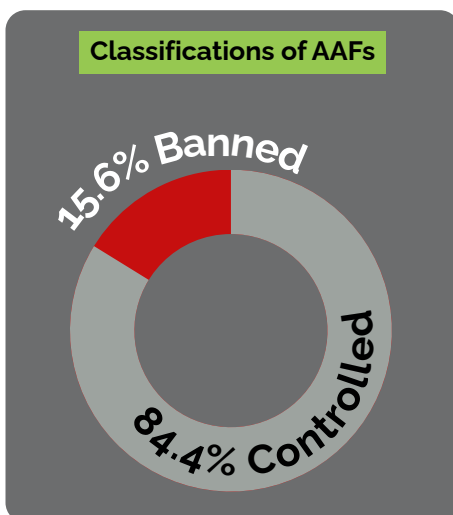
Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) = positive test result

Results Management

AAFs by Substance and Classification

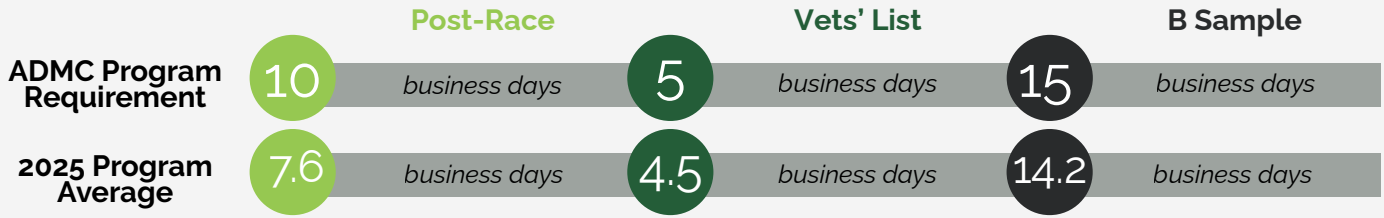
Banned	Controlled Method		Controlled Class A		Controlled Class B		Controlled Class C		
Albuterol	21	TCO2	1	--	--	Acepromazine	51	Aminocaproic Acid	1
Altrenogest	2					Caffeine	6	Betamethasone	11
Amphetamine	1					Cannabidiol	7	Dantrolene	9
Clenbuterol	7					Capsaicin	4	Dexamethasone	40
Cobalt	1					Gabapentin	7	Diclofenac	3
Dihydroxybenzenesulfonic Acid	1					Ketamine	2	Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO)	5
Formoterol	2					Lidocaine	15	Flunixin	10
Methamphetamine	12					Medroxyprogesterone Acetate	1	Furosemide	1
Nikethamide	2					Mepivacaine	2	Glycopyrrolate	3
Oxymorphone	1					Tramadol	9	Guaifenesin	1
Sparteine	1							Ibuprofen	2
Testosterone	5							Isoflupredone	1
								Methocarbamol	30
								Methylprednisolone	2
								Omeprazole Sulfide	15
								Pentoxifylline	1
								Phenylbutazone	44
								Ranitidine	2
								Salicylic Acid	1
								Triamcinolone Acetonide	5
								Trichlormethiazide	10
56	1	0	0	104	197				
358 AAFs									

*updated April 6, 2026



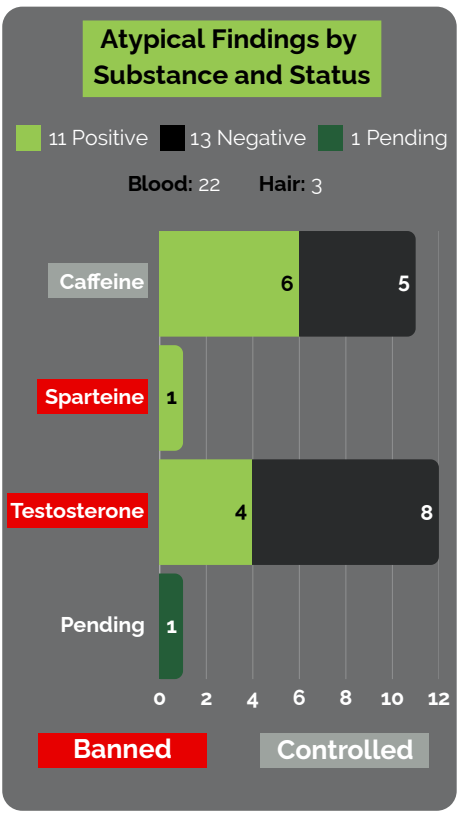
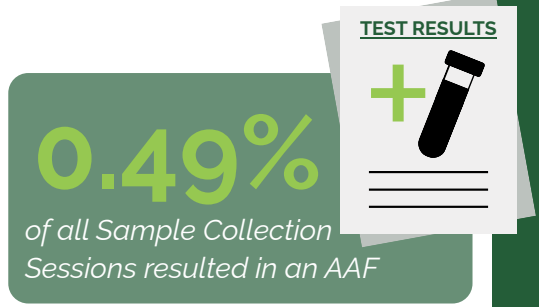
Average Time for Test Results to be Reported

Times are shown in business days from the date the sample was received by the laboratory



State	Location	Total AAFs	Equine Anti-Doping (EAD)	Equine Controlled Medication (ECM)
AR	Oaklawn Park	8	0	8
AZ	Turf Paradise	18	2	16
CA	Del Mar	5	0	5
	Los Alamitos	7	2	5
	Pleasanton	2	0	2
	Santa Anita	18	0	18
	Training Centers/Other	1	0	1
DE	Delaware Park	10	4	6
FL	Gulfstream Park	20	2	18
	Tampa Bay Downs	18	0	18
	Training Centers/Other	3	0	3
IA	Prairie Meadows	7	0	7
IL	Fairmount Park	4	0	4
	Hawthorne	5	1	4
IN	Horseshoe Indianapolis	12	1	11
KY	Churchill Downs	15	4	11
	Keeneland	7	0	7
	Turfway Park	10	4	6
	Training Centers/Other	3	1	2
MD	Laurel Park	17	2	15
	Timonium	1	0	1
	Training Centers/Other	3	0	3
MN	Canterbury Park	1	0	1
NJ	Monmouth Park	2	0	2
	Training Centers/Other	2	2	0
NM	Downs at Albuquerque	14	11	3
	Sunland Park	3	0	3
NY	Aqueduct	21	2	19
	Belmont Park	6	0	6
	Finger Lakes	18	1	17
	Saratoga	1	0	1
OH	Belterra Park	10	3	7
	Mahoning Valley	17	3	14
	Thistledown	4	2	2
OK	Remington Park	5	0	5
	Will Rogers Downs	7	1	6
PA	Parx Racing	28	6	22
	Penn National	7	1	6
	Presque Isle Downs	5	0	5
VA	Colonial Downs	4	0	4
WA	Emerald Downs	9	1	8
Total		358	56	302

Total AAFs by State and Location



Legal & Adjudications

As of March 10, 2026,
the average resolution time for
cases originating in 2025 was

82.6
days

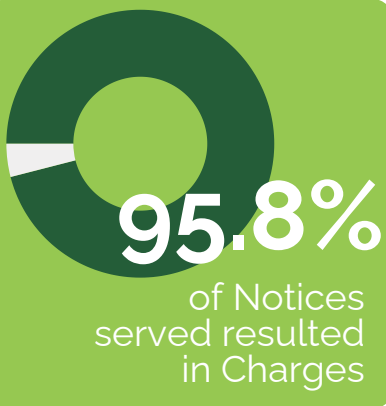


12

EAD decisions issued by
Arbital Body (AB)

16

ECM decisions issued by
Internal Adjudication Panel
(IAP)



4

Appeals filed

Appeals decided
by Administrative Law
Judge (*all pending*)

0

14

Responsible Persons
utilized HISA's Pro Bono
Counsel Program

Steps for Notifying Covered Persons of Potential Violations

Notice

HIWU notifies
Covered Person of a
potential ECM/EAD
violation and
requests explanation.

Review

HIWU reviews any
explanation
provided and
determines if
violation occurred.

Charge

If HIWU determines
violation occurred,
Charge is issued.

Hearing

Covered Person
may request a
hearing.

Notices Served

Total Notices Served	377	
Total EAD Notices Served	64	17.0%
Presence (Rule 3212)	47	73.4%
Use (Rule 3213)	1	1.6%
Possession (Rule 3214(a))	13	20.2%
Trafficking (Rule 3214(b))	1	1.6%
Tampering (Rule 3216(a))	1	1.6%
Other (Rule 3230(b)(2))	1	1.6%
Total ECM Notices Served	313	83.0%
Presence (Rule 3312)	290	92.7%
Use (Rule 3313)	16	5.1%
TCO2 (Rule 3313/4221)	1	0.3%
Disciplinary Proceedings (Rule 3510)	4	1.3%
Period of Ineligibility Status (Rule 3329)	2	0.6%

Charges Served

Total Charges Served	361	
Total EAD Charges Served	57	15.8%
Presence (Rule 3212)	41	71.8%
Use (Rule 3213)	1	1.8%
Possession (Rule 3214(a))	12	21.0%
Trafficking (Rule 3214(b))	1	1.8%
Tampering (Rule 3216(a))	1	1.8%
Other (Rule 3230(b)(2))	1	1.8%
Total ECM Charges Served	304	84.2%
Presence (Rule 3312)	285	93.8%
Use (Rule 3313)	13	4.3%
TCO2 (Rule 3313/4221)	1	0.3%
Disciplinary Proceedings (Rule 3510)	3	1.0%
Period of Ineligibility Status (Rule 3329)	2	0.6%

EAD & ECM Notices & Charges Served by State

State	EAD Notices	EAD Charges	ECM Notices	ECM Charges
AR	1	1	8	8
AZ	3	3	14	14
CA	2	2	28	27
DE	5	2	6	6
FL	2	2	44	44
IA	1	1	9	8
IL	5	4	8	8
IN	2	2	13	12
KY	9	7	27	25
MD	3	3	21	21
MN	0	0	1	1
NJ	2	2	3	2
NM	9	9	7	6
NY	3	3	43	42
OH	6	6	27	27
OK	1	1	13	13
PA	8	7	29	28
VA	0	0	4	4
WA	2	2	8	8
Total	64	57	313	304

58 Stayed Cases

15 EAD

EAD matters are stayed due to proposed ADMC Program Rules relating to human substances of abuse and the proposed reclassification of altrenogest from a Banned Substance to a Controlled Medication.

43 ECM

ECM matters are stayed due to proposed ADMC Program Rules that would affect whether the Covered Persons at issue would be subject to a period of Ineligibility for the violation.

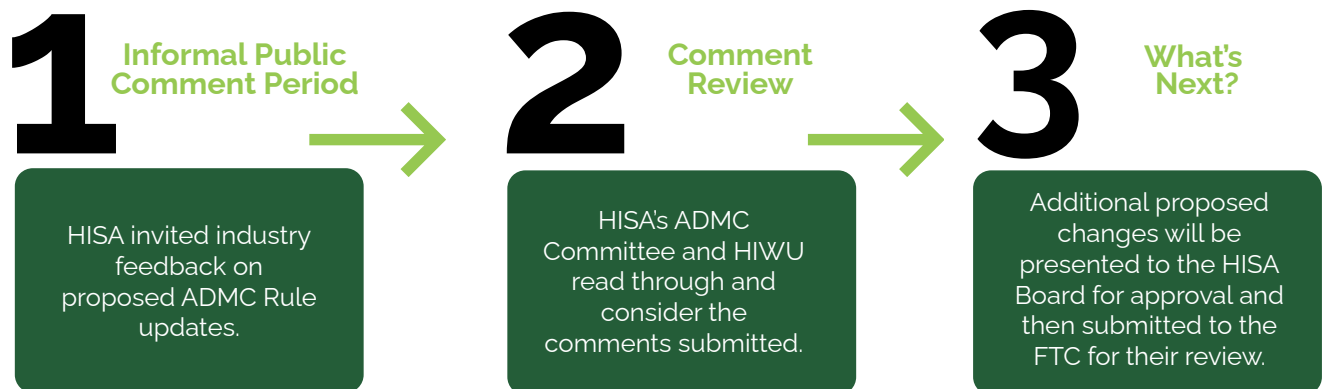
Results of Charges Served

	EAD		ECM	
	Total	%	Total	%
Admission	8	14.0%	151	49.7%
Decision (AB, IAP, HIWU)	17	29.8%	89	29.3%
Withdrawal	1	1.8%	0	0.0%
Stayed	15	26.3%	43	14.1%
Pending	16	28.1%	21	6.9%
Total	57	100.0%	304	100.0%

Proposed ADMC Program Rule Modifications

In November 2025, HISA announced that it was **seeking public comment on proposed modifications** to the Rule Series 1000, 3000, and 4000 of the ADMC Program Rules. Proposed modifications to the Rule Series 5000 and 7000 were later shared for public comment in January 2026. These additional changes build upon the original updates that were first submitted to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in November 2023 and supplemented in May 2024.

While the initial proposed modifications were pending with the FTC, HISA's ADMC Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the ADMC Program's implementation and performance, informed by several additional months of Program operations and industry feedback. This review **identified additional opportunities for improvement**. Considering these additional changes, HISA asked that the FTC withhold action on the November 2023 submission (and the subsequent May 2024 supplement), until new proposed modifications are filed, which will replace and supersede the earlier submissions.



Among the numerous proposed changes to benefit horsemen are **decreased sanctions** associated with AAFs for human substances of abuse and Vets' List Testing, as well as a **new category of Controlled Medications (Class D)** for anti-ulcer medications that calls for lesser sanctions for associated violations.

In 2026, HISA's ADMC Committee, in consultation with HIWU, will review and consider all relevant comments before recommending proposed modifications to the HISA Board. If approved by the HISA Board, the proposed modifications will then be formally submitted to the FTC for approval.

In the interim, **HIWU continues to stay cases that would be positively affected by the proposed Rule modifications** that were previously approved by the HISA Board and submitted to the FTC for formal approval, i.e., cases in which the Covered Person would receive a period of Ineligibility under the current Rules but not under the proposed Rules. The adjudication process will resume for these cases after the FTC acts on the proposed Rule changes.

ADMC Committee

HISA's ADMC Committee is responsible for promulgating the ADMC Program Rules. The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act requires that the Committee is composed of four independent members and three industry representatives responsible for developing and proposing anti-doping and medication control rules. It is led by HISA Board Chairman Charles Scheeler and made up of a group of experts who brings a range of relevant experience in horse racing, human sports, and anti-doping.



Independent Members:

Charles Scheeler, Chair

Jonathan Coyles

Jeff Novitzky

Stephen Schumacher, DVM

Industry Representatives:

Jeff Blea, DVM

David Ingordo

David Sykes, BVSc, MRCVS

Investigations

Throughout 2025, HIWU's Investigations Unit maintained its impressive benchmarks from the prior year in terms of expediency and effectiveness, while even showing improved metrics in specific areas. Compared to 2024, HIWU's investigators conducted **nearly 60 more searches nationwide, opened approximately 120 more investigative inquiries, and showed a 60% increase in the number of ADMC Program cases** initiated from their efforts.

Even with the increased number of cases and continued expansion of HIWU's investigative presence at racetracks covered by HISA, the team responded to all submitted tips within 24 hours of receipt. Through expanded collaboration with Operations and Science, the Investigations Unit can convert information received to action, whether it is through testing strategy, communicating with the Program laboratories, or launching a new investigation.



Cases Generated from Searches or Investigations

16 EAD Cases

16 ECM Cases

Possession of a Banned Substance	13
Violation of period of Ineligibility	1
Use or Attempted Use of a Banned Substance	1
Trafficking of a Banned Substance	1
Total	16

Use of a Controlled Medication during the Race Period	13
Violation of period of Ineligibility	1
Failure to cooperate with investigators	1
Engaging in offensive conduct toward Sample Collection Personnel	1
Total	16

Science

Led by the launch of the HISA Equine Analytical Laboratory (HEAL) Accreditation Program, HIWU's Science team experienced a year of both transition and growth in 2025. From answering stakeholder questions about medications and collaborating with Program Laboratories, to assisting with ADMC Program cases, investigations, and testing strategy, Science's impact on the successful administration of the ADMC Program is extensive.

HEAL Accreditation

Under the oversight of the independent Laboratory Expert Group, **HEAL Accreditation took effect on January 1, 2025**. At that time, four laboratories were granted probationary HEAL Accreditation.

HEAL Accreditation ensures **harmonization** around Laboratory Standards and laboratory **compliance** in meeting client testing specifications. It also creates opportunities for Program laboratories to share emerging analytical intelligence, ongoing research, and detection methodologies. This benefits the ADMC Program by enhancing its ability to respond to and identify novel substances that represent potential threats to the safety and integrity of the sport.

Compliance

The Program Rules require that HIWU administer the HEAL Accreditation Program, which includes empowering HIWU to closely monitor compliance and act accordingly when laboratories cannot meet the Laboratory Standards. The Laboratory Expert Group, whose members bring a broad range of relevant expertise in human and equine anti-doping, laboratory operations, and quality assurance management, is essential to this component of the ADMC Program.

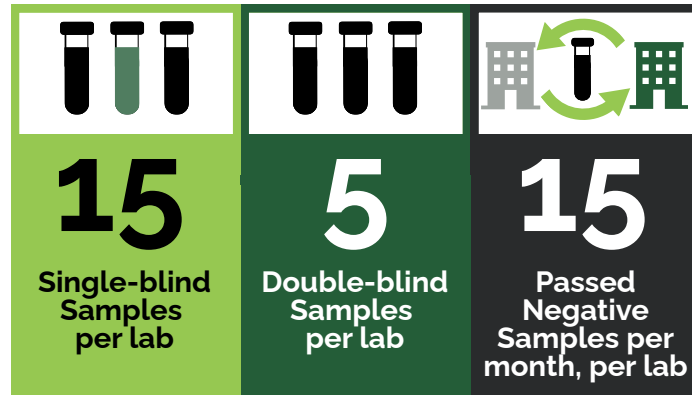


The External Quality Assessment Scheme

HEAL's External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS) acts as the foundation for **auditing the performance of Program laboratories**. It expands upon quality assurance measures that were used under previous accreditation programs, including mandatory and consistent single-blind testing, double-blind testing, and passed sample exchanges for Negative samples.

- **Single-blind testing:** the Program laboratory knowingly receives a quality assurance sample authorized by HIWU, but it is not aware of the contents of the sample.
- **Double-blind testing:** the Program laboratory receives a sample that is indistinguishable from routine samples; the Program laboratory is not aware of the contents of the sample or that it is a quality assurance sample authorized by HIWU.
- **Passed sample exchange:** Program samples that have been reported as Negative by one laboratory are sent to other Program laboratories to be re-analyzed. Besides serving as a quality control measure, this program enables greater population surveillance by leveraging specialty analytical capabilities that go beyond HEAL requirements and are unique to each laboratory.

Each year, the EQAS will consist of a minimum of:



How do HIWU and the Laboratory Expert Group assess compliance?



- Administering the **EQAS**.
- Continually **monitoring validated methods** for detection of Program substances in blood, urine, and hair.
- Reviewing **laboratory quality control systems** to ensure integrity and repeatability of test results.
- Checking in with Program laboratories' abilities to meet Program testing specifications on an ongoing basis, including through **document audits and routine testing**.

Program Laboratories

In July, HIWU announced that it suspended the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Laboratory's (PETRL) probationary HEAL Accreditation status for a minimum of six months. Effective immediately, samples collected in Pennsylvania were sent to Industrial Laboratories for analysis. HIWU's Laboratory Expert Group recommended the suspension of PETRL's probationary HEAL Accreditation due to nonconformities associated with HEAL compliance. Probationary accreditation status will not be restored unless and until the laboratory is in full compliance with HEAL.

The following month, **Equine Integrity and Anti-Doping Sciences (EQIAS) Labs** was granted probationary HEAL Accreditation.

EQIAS Labs, formerly known as the University of Kentucky Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, is

no longer managed by the university and is now operated by Eagle Diagnostics, an affiliate of The Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory.

EQIAS Labs applied for HEAL Accreditation after achieving interim RMTC accreditation in December 2024, when the laboratory was still under the University of Kentucky. EQIAS Labs submitted detailed documentation demonstrating its qualifications and capabilities to perform the testing required under the ADMC Program in compliance with the Program Rules. Additionally, HIWU conducted a site visit and directed the distribution of multiple EQAS samples to EQIAS Labs for analysis.

All documentation and assessments were reviewed by the three members of the Laboratory Expert Group, who voted to approve EQIAS Labs for probationary HEAL Accreditation status.

Analytical Toxicology Laboratory*
at the Ohio Department of Agriculture

*HEAL Accreditation suspended February 9, 2026

Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory
at the University of California-Davis

Equine Integrity and Anti-Doping Sciences (EQIAS) Labs
Lexington, KY

Industrial Laboratories
Denver, CO

Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Laboratory*
at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, operated by the University of Pennsylvania

*HEAL Accreditation suspended July 8, 2025



Leadership Transition

After three years as HIWU's chief of science and innumerable contributions to HISA's ADMC Program, Dr. Mary Scollay retired from full-time duties in July 2025.

At that time, Dr. Michael Hardy was named HIWU's acting chief of science. Hardy also maintained his role as executive director of the RMTC, where he had spent nearly three years, to ensure the organization continues to meet the needs of the racing industry.

A member of HISA's Horsemen's Advisory Group, Hardy spent more than a decade as a regulatory veterinarian, including serving as the chief association veterinarian and safety director at Horseshoe Indianapolis. He was also a member of the Breeders' Cup Veterinary Panel and has served on the Horseracing Testing Laboratory Committee and RegVets Continuing Education Program's Committee for the RMTC.



Results of Metformin Studies

The first year of the ADMC Program saw a series of positive test results for metformin and subsequent industry concern that Covered Horses were being unintentionally exposed to this Banned Substance. In response to these findings, as well as intelligence received by HIWU that trainers were intentionally administering metformin to Covered Horses to enhance performance, **HISA and HIWU asked the RMTC's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to conduct an independent review of the available science relating to metformin** in June 2024 to determine if it was appropriate to modify the regulation of this substance. The results of this review were published in November 2025.

The SAC's investigation consisted of an initial review of the existing scientific literature followed by a three-part study performed at the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. These studies were completed and submitted for publication in 2025.

Based on these studies, **the SAC proposed a Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) for metformin of 4.0 nanograms per milliliter in blood**, which HISA's ADMC Committee recommended for adoption in the latest version of proposed modifications to the ADMC Program Rules.

The SAC agreed that an MRL of 4.0 nanograms per milliliter in blood accounts for exposure to metformin due to intentional administration and minimizes the possibility of a reported AAF due to inadvertent exposure. One study determined that metformin demonstrates an erratic elimination behavior in urine and an inconsistent relationship between urine and blood concentrations. Therefore, the SAC recommended that laboratories perform confirmatory analysis in blood only.

The review of metformin reflects HISA and HIWU's ongoing commitment to developing and enforcing rules based on current scientific and veterinary evidence. Any pending Presence violations for metformin remain stayed pending approval of the proposed MRL by the FTC.



Credit: 28/22 News



Have an education need or idea?

Share it with us — we're here to help educate you and your constituents!

Email info@hiwu.org.

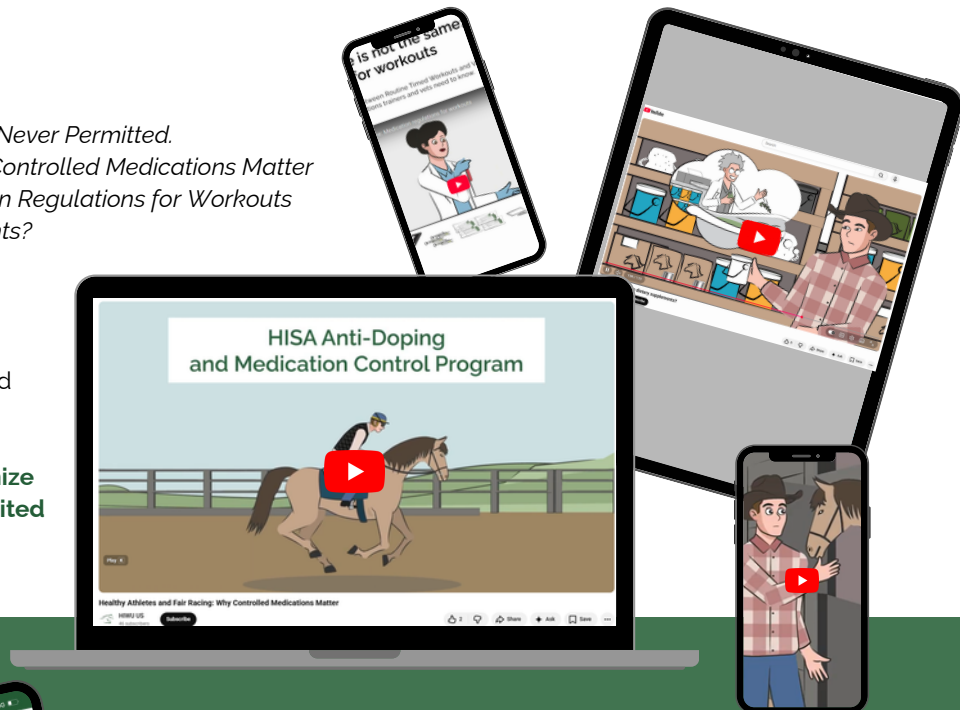
Education & Outreach

With 2025 marking the second full year of the ADMC Program, the Education team focused on the **production of video content** that expanded upon pre-existing written resources and/or tackled more nuanced Rules that directly affect Covered Persons.

Videos

- *So Banned Substances: Not Approved? Never Permitted.*
- *Healthy Athletes and Fair Racing: Why Controlled Medications Matter*
- *Every Breeze is Not the Same: Medication Regulations for Workouts*
- *What's the Scoop on Dietary Supplements?*

Besides the new materials, HIWU's stable hygiene content of physical documents and videos continued to serve as important resources for horsemen to facilitate best practices around Covered Horses to **minimize the risk of unintended exposure to Prohibited Substances.**



Top Five Substances Searched in the HIWU App & Website

- Acepromazine
- Phenylbutazone
- Dantrolene
- Dexamethasone
- Methocarbamol/
Clenbuterol (tied)



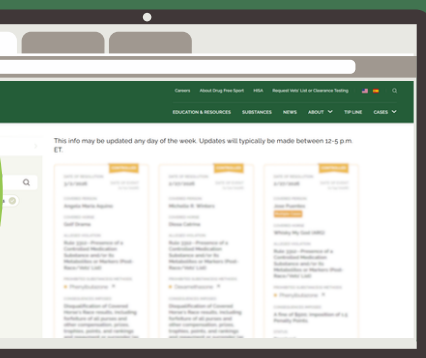
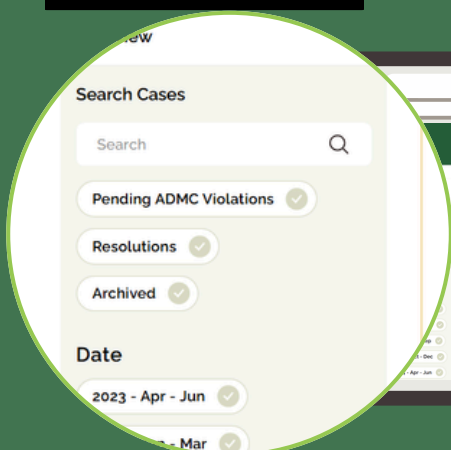
Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Website and Digital Media

As part of HIWU's efforts to offer an informative and user-friendly website, the Education team launched a **revamped Cases section in July**. The update included a unified search feature, enabling users to search for key words among pending, resolved, and archived cases at the same time.

With the website serving as the central resource for all educational materials, HIWU took advantage of other digital mediums to share content that was relevant and timely to stakeholders. This included publishing resources to HIWU's social media pages, pushing content through the HIWU app, and distributing messages via the HISA portal to targeted audiences registered with HISA.



Listening Tour

In conjunction with HISA, HIWU stopped at four racetracks as part of a national "listening tour" initiative. At these meetings, **HISA and HIWU leadership held open discussions for horsemen and other stakeholders** to ask questions and engage with the organizations. The HISA and HIWU teams also took these opportunities to meet with industry partners at these racetracks, including stewards, regulatory veterinarians, and track management.

The listening tour made positive strides toward promoting communication and collaboration between HISA, HIWU, and industry stakeholders. Strategic planning in 2026 includes additional stops at racetracks around the country.

Tracks Visited

- **Canterbury Park**
- **Finger Lakes**
- **Hawthorne Race Course**
- **Horseshoe Indianapolis**



Industry Outreach

Conferences and Symposiums

- American Association of Equine Practitioners Annual Convention
- Association of Racing Commissioners International Conference
- Global Symposium on Racing
- International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) Conference
- Organization of Racing Investigators Conference
- Partnership for Clean Competition Conference
- RMTTC RegVet Continuing Education Conference
- The Jockey Club Round Table Conference
- University of Kentucky Equine Law Conference
- World Anti-Doping Agency Annual Symposium

Stakeholder Meetings

- British Horseracing Authority
- Congressional Breakfast Briefing
- HISA Listening Tour
- HISA Town Hall
- Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation
- OwnerView Conference Series
- Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
- RMTTC Board of Directors
- Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.
- Thoroughbred Racing Associations

Media Briefings and Features

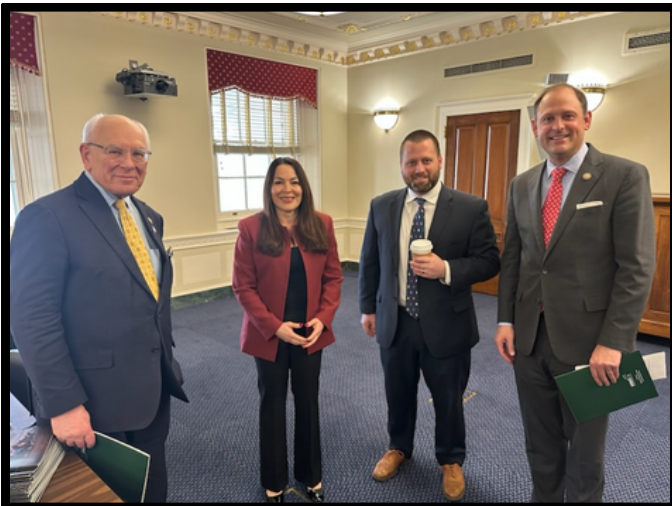
- Breeders' Cup Safety Briefing
- NBC
- Thoroughbred Daily News

Committees

- European Horseracing Scientific Liaison Committee
- HISA ADMC Committee
- HISA Horsemen's Advisory Group
- HISA Next Generation Advisory Group
- IFHA Advisory Council on Prohibited Substances and Practices
- IFHA Technical Advisory Committee
- RMTTC Executive Committee
- RMTTC Horseracing Testing Laboratory Committee

Education

- Godolphin Flying Start Program
- Racing Officials Accreditation Program
- University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program



Glossary

Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program (ADMC) Program: HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program.

Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF): a result from a laboratory reporting the detection of the presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers (or evidence of the use of a Prohibited Method) in a sample, i.e., a "positive test;" an Adverse Analytical Finding may be pursued as a Presence violation under the ADMC Program Rules.

Anti-Doping Rule Violation: violations of the ADMC Program that involve Banned Substances or Banned Methods, as well as other defined violations of the Protocol.

Arbital Body (AB): an individual or individuals independently selected by JAMS (the Program's Arbital Body administrator) to hear and decide Anti-Doping Rule Violation cases.

A Sample: the initial portion of a sample analyzed for the presence of Prohibited Substances or evidence of the use of a Prohibited Method.

Atypical Finding: a result from a laboratory reporting the detection of the presence of a Prohibited Substance in a sample that is an endogenous substance; one of the substances on a list of "Specified Substances," which pose a higher risk of being in a horse's sample due to contamination (as defined in the ADMC Program); or a novel substance not on the Prohibited List; Atypical Findings trigger an investigation by HIWU.

Banned Substances/Methods: substances or methods prohibited at all times to be administered to Covered Horses, possessed, or trafficked.

B Sample: the split portion of a sample analyzed to confirm the presence of a Prohibited Substance; testing is not conducted on the B Sample unless requested and paid for by a Covered Person.

Claimed Horse Testing: Post-Race Testing conducted on a claimed horse, as requested by the claimant.

Clearance Testing: testing for a horse at the request of a Covered Person to determine if specific Controlled Medication Substances have cleared the horse's system.

Controlled Medication Rule Violation: violations of the ADMC Program that involve Controlled Medication Substances or Methods.

Controlled Medication Substances: substances with therapeutic uses for horses but that, with certain exceptions, may not be present in a Post-Race, Vets' List, or Post-Work Sample; they may be present in Out-of-Competition Samples.

Covered Horse: a Thoroughbred that is subject to the rules of the ADMC Program; a Thoroughbred becomes a Covered Horse upon completion of its first Timed and Reported Workout (i.e., breeze) or the date of a horse's entry or nomination to a Covered Horserace (a Thoroughbred race in a state in which HISA is in effect).

Covered Person: those who are engaged in the care, treatment, training, or racing of Covered Horses; includes, but is not limited to, trainers and their staff, veterinarians, owners, and jockeys.

Double-Blind Sample: a quality assurance sample that is indistinguishable from routine samples; the Program laboratory is not aware of the contents of the sample or that it is a quality assurance sample authorized by HIWU.

External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS): a program for quality assessment of laboratory performance, which includes the periodic distribution of blood, urine, hair, or other samples on behalf of HIWU to Program laboratories in order to be analyzed for the presence or absence of Prohibited Substances.

Equine Anti-Doping Charge (EAD)/Equine Controlled Medication Charge (ECM): a Charge is served by HIWU when HIWU has made the determination that it is moving forward with a case against a Responsible Person; it is not served until after HIWU has received and reviewed the explanation and any other information submitted by the Responsible Person (if they have done so).

EAD Notice/ECM Notice: a Notice served by HIWU that is the first communication with the Responsible Person; it sets forth the facts with respect to a possible violation of the ADMC Program and requests an explanation from the Responsible Person.

HISA Equine Analytical Laboratory (HEAL) Accreditation: laboratory accreditation standards set forth by HISA; implemented by HIWU on January 1, 2025.

Internal Adjudication Panel (IAP): impartial member(s) selected by HISA and HIWU to hear and decide cases of alleged Controlled Medication Rule Violations; IAP members, which may include state stewards, are selected for their equine regulatory experience.

Out-of-Competition (OOC) Sample/Testing: sample collected / testing conducted at any time other than for Post-Race, Vets' List, TCO₂, or Post-Work Testing; only Banned Substances are regulated in Out-of-Competition Testing.

Passed Sample Exchange Program: Program samples that have been reported as Negative by one laboratory are sent to other Program laboratories to be re-analyzed as part of the External Quality Assessment Scheme to ensure compliance with HEAL Accreditation.

Period of Ineligibility: the suspension of a Covered Person or Covered Horse from participating in racing, Timed and Reported Workouts, and any and all other activities related to Covered Horses, as applicable. A period of Ineligibility may be imposed after an ADMC Program matter is resolved by an arbitrator, IAP member, or HIWU.

Possession Violation: when a Covered Person maintains physical or constructive possession of a Prohibited Substance or Method in violation of the ADMC Program Rules.

Post-Race Sample/Testing: sample collected / testing conducted following a race; no Banned Substances or Controlled Medication Substances (with the exception of furosemide in non-stakes races for horses that are age three or older) may be present in a Post-Race Sample.

Presence Violation: a violation of the ADMC Program resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding, i.e., a "positive test."

Prohibited Substances/Prohibited List: all Banned Substances or Controlled Medication Substances as defined by HISA.

Provisional Suspension: an initial period of ineligibility for a Covered Person or Covered Horse while a case is pending; Provisionally Suspended individuals cannot participate in Timed and Reported Workouts or Covered Horseraces; Covered Persons may request a Provisional Hearing to seek to lift their Provisional Suspension.

Responsible Person: usually a horse's trainer; may be the horse's owner if the horse does not have a trainer.

Sample Collection Personnel (SCP): individuals certified and trained by HIWU to conduct collection of blood, urine, or hair samples; includes, but is not limited to, test barn staff and veterinarians.

Sample Collection Session (SCS): the time from when the initial contact is made to notify a Responsible Person or Nominated Person of a Covered Horse's selection for testing, continuing until the Covered Horse has provided a sample and is released from the testing location; Sample Collection Sessions may include blood, urine, and/or hair collection.

Single-Blind Sample: a quality assurance sample in which the Program laboratory is aware that the sample is a quality assurance sample authorized by HIWU but is not aware of the contents of the sample.

TCO₂ Sample/Testing: blood sample collected on race day to test for the use or administration of an alkalinizing agent, i.e., "milkshaking."

Test Distribution Plan: HIWU's intelligence-based strategy for selecting horses for testing.

Vets' List Sample/Testing: sample collected / testing conducted following a Vets' List Workout in order for the horse to be released from the Vets' List; Vets' List Testing is subject to the same regulations as Post-Race Testing, except for furosemide (since furosemide is always permitted in a Vets' List Sample).

*The above definitions and descriptions are not exhaustive.
For more information, please consult the HISA ADMC Program Rules that were approved by the FTC.*



www.hiwu.org
4801 Main Street, Suite 350
Kansas City, MO 64112