

**OKLAHOMA HORSE RACING COMMISSION**  
**BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION TO REMOVE PROTECTED HORSES**  
**FROM THE STEWARDS' LIST / VETERINARIAN'S LIST AND RESTORE**  
**ELIGIBILITY**

These Instructions are issued to implement the Emergency Protective Orders entered on April 22, 2026, concerning certain Protected Horses associated with the named trainers. These Instructions are intended to provide a uniform, objective, and medically informed process by which the Stewards and veterinarians can determine whether a particular horse may safely and humanely race and whether that horse may be removed from the Stewards' List and, if applicable, the Veterinarian's List.

### **1. Purpose and Scope**

These Instructions apply to all horses identified as Protected Horses in the trainer-specific Emergency Protective Orders.

These Instructions do not vacate, modify, or narrow the terms of those Orders. They are issued to explain the process by which the affected trainer may make a formal application for removal of an individual horse from the Stewards' List and, where applicable, the Veterinarian's List.

No horse shall become eligible to enter or compete until the Stewards issue a further written order removing that horse from the applicable list or lists.

### **2. Governing Principles**

The Stewards' inquiry is protective and investigative, not punitive. The central question is whether the Stewards, after consultation with the Official Veterinarian and review of the entire record, are reasonably satisfied that allowing the horse to enter and compete would not presently compromise equine welfare or the integrity of racing.

The trainer bears the burden of providing complete, candid, and verifiable information sufficient to permit an informed decision. No horse will be removed from a list based upon assurances alone.

Because the Orders were entered in response to an abnormal and materially elevated pattern of severe post-race distress and van-offs, the trainer must both: (a) provide a medically and factually supported explanation for the horse's prior risk factors, and (b) demonstrate through objective evidence and independent review that the horse may safely return to racing under conditions consistent with horse welfare.

### **3. Two Categories of Horses**

For purposes of review under these Instructions, Protected Horses shall be processed in one of the following categories:

- Category A – Prior Severe-Distress Horses: any Protected Horse previously documented during this meeting as having suffered the type of severe post-race distress described in the

Orders, including any horse that was vanned from the track because it could not safely leave under its own power.

- Category B – Other Protected Horses: any other Protected Horse listed in the Orders that has not been separately documented as a prior severe-distress horse.

Category A horses shall be subject to heightened review and shall not be removed from the Veterinarian's List except in accordance with Commission rule and written veterinary clearance. Category B horses remain subject to the Stewards' List and the release process set out below.

#### **4. Formal Written Application Required for Each Horse**

A separate written application shall be submitted for each horse for which release is sought. Group applications may be submitted in one package, but each horse must have an individual section and individual supporting materials.

Each application shall be addressed to the Board of Stewards and delivered to the Stewards' office, with copies to the Official Veterinarian and Racing Veterinarian.

Each application must contain, at a minimum, the following:

- the horse's registered name, tattoo or microchip number, age, sex, and current location;
- the name of the trainer of record and owner of record;
- whether the horse is Category A or Category B under these Instructions;
- a statement whether the horse is currently on the Stewards' List only, or on both the Stewards' List and Veterinarian's List;
- a complete chronology of the horse's racing, training, treatment, and material health events for the 90 days preceding the Order and through the date of the application;
- a written explanation of the trainer's proposed cause or causes of the horse's elevated risk of post-race distress or van-off, including any suspected medical, management, conditioning, medication, environmental, or other contributing factors;
- a detailed description of all corrective measures taken or proposed to address those causes;
- all supporting veterinary records, diagnostic reports, workout records, test results, shipping records, pharmacy records, invoices, and other materials relied upon by the applicant;
- the sworn certification required by Section 10 of these Instructions; and
- a request for regulatory review and, if applicable, scheduling of the observed work and post-work evaluation.

#### **5. Records Production and Full Disclosure**

The deadlines and disclosure obligations stated in the Orders remain in effect. No application will be considered complete unless all records previously required by the Orders have been produced, together with any supplemental records requested by the Stewards, Official Veterinarian, Racing Veterinarian, or Commission investigators.

Without limitation, the trainer must ensure production of the following, to the extent they exist or are reasonably obtainable:

- all treatment records for the horse during the preceding 90 days, including date and time of treatment or service, diagnosis, medication, dosage, and reason for treatment;
- all prescriptions, dispensation records, compounding-pharmacy records, invoices, shipping records, and proof of purchase relating to medications, substances, supplements, therapies, or devices;
- all barn treatment sheets, stable medication inventories, vet communications, and work records;
- all records identifying the persons who actually exercised control over the horse's care, training, treatment, and medication decisions; and
- all records of any prior distress episode, including veterinary notes, video, treatment, recovery, and follow-up diagnostics.

If any requested record does not exist, cannot be located, or is not within the trainer's possession, custody, or control, the application must specifically identify the missing record, explain why it is unavailable, and describe the efforts made to obtain it.

## **6. Independent Veterinary Evaluation**

Each horse must be examined by an independent veterinarian, at the trainer's expense, before release will be considered.

The independent veterinarian must be acceptable to the Official Veterinarian or approved by the Stewards. The independent veterinarian must not be a person whose judgment appears compromised by an undisclosed conflict, and the independent veterinarian's professional judgment must remain independent.

The independent veterinarian shall provide a written report, signed and dated, addressing at a minimum:

- the horse's current medical condition and overall fitness;
- the horse's relevant recent medical and treatment history;
- the veterinarian's assessment of the likely cause or causes of the horse's prior distress risk, including whether the pattern is consistent with overexertion, medical compromise, medication effect, inappropriate conditioning, respiratory, cardiac, neurologic, metabolic, musculoskeletal, toxicologic, or other causes;
- the tests performed and the objective results of those tests;
- any limitations on the veterinarian's conclusions caused by missing information or incomplete records;
- all recommended corrective measures, restrictions, or conditions;
- whether the horse, at the time of examination, appears safe and humane to return to training and racing; and
- whether additional specialty review is recommended.

The Official Veterinarian may require review by an independent third-party specialist at the trainer's expense when reasonably necessary to assess safety, including but not limited to an

internal medicine specialist, cardiology specialist, respiratory specialist, neurologic specialist, imaging specialist, toxicologist, or other appropriate expert.

## **7. Diagnostic Testing and Additional Evaluations**

Every horse shall undergo the diagnostic testing and additional evaluations directed by the Official Veterinarian. The scope of testing may differ by horse depending on the horse's history, presentation, and prior incidents.

At a minimum, the Official Veterinarian may direct any of the following, at the trainer's expense, when reasonably necessary to make an informed safety determination:

- physical examination, lameness and gait evaluation, and baseline soundness assessment;
- hematology, serum chemistry, muscle enzyme testing, and other laboratory studies;
- respiratory examination, including endoscopy or other indicated testing;
- cardiac evaluation, including electrocardiographic or echocardiographic assessment when indicated;
- musculoskeletal imaging, including radiographs, ultrasound, scintigraphy, or other appropriate imaging;
- neurologic evaluation;
- toxicology review or expanded testing directed to substances, compounds, or classes not included in routine race-day panels, when feasible and reasonably available;
- review of training intensity, workout pattern, shipping, environmental factors, and recovery pattern; and
- any additional diagnostic work-up, protocol, or veterinary evaluation directed by the Official Veterinarian or required by a third-party specialist.

The Stewards and Official Veterinarian may require supplementation if the materials submitted are inconclusive, internally inconsistent, or inadequate to permit a reliable decision.

## **8. Sampling and Regulatory Testing**

No horse may be restored to eligibility unless all required biological samples have been collected as required by the Orders.

Each horse remains subject to pre-race testing, out-of-competition testing, post-work sampling, and any additional sampling lawfully directed by the Stewards, Official Veterinarian, or Commission.

All sample collection shall occur in accordance with Commission procedures governing collection, witness acknowledgment, custody, sealing, shipment, and split-sample procedures. Refusal, evasion, or interference will be treated as noncompliance.

## **9. Observed Work Required for Every Horse**

Before any horse may be considered for removal from the Stewards' List, the horse must complete an observed work under conditions approved by the Official Veterinarian and Stewards. This requirement applies to every horse.

The purpose of the observed work is to permit regulatory and veterinary observation of the horse's exertion, recovery, and post-work condition in a controlled setting.

Unless otherwise directed, the observed work process shall include:

- pre-work regulatory veterinary examination;
- confirmation that all directed diagnostics and prerequisite records have been submitted;
- official observation of the work by regulatory personnel designated by the Stewards and/or veterinarians;
- post-work veterinary examination and recovery assessment;
- collection of any post-work official sample directed by the Official Veterinarian;
- monitoring for abnormal recovery, gait impairment, distress, respiratory compromise, collapse, inability to ambulate normally, or any other sign that the horse may be unsafe or inhumane to race; and
- written veterinary findings concerning the horse's response to exertion.

If the horse does not satisfactorily complete the observed work, or if the post-work findings raise unresolved safety or welfare concerns, the horse shall remain on the applicable list or lists and may be required to undergo additional diagnostics or a later reevaluation.

#### **10. Sworn Certification by Trainer**

Each application must include a notarized or sworn certification executed by the trainer of record, stating under oath:

- that the application is true and correct to the best of the trainer's knowledge;
- that all records and information requested by the Orders and these Instructions have been produced, or that any omissions have been specifically identified and explained;
- that the trainer has fully disclosed all medications, substances, supplements, therapies, procedures, devices, and treatments administered to or used in connection with the horse during the relevant period;
- that the trainer has identified all persons known to have participated in the care, training, treatment, or medication decisions concerning the horse;
- that the trainer has stated the trainer's best current explanation of the cause or causes of the horse's prior elevated risk of severe distress, together with all corrective measures implemented; and
- that no undisclosed treatment, device, or substance has been withheld from the Stewards or veterinarians.

#### **11. Interviews and Additional Inquiry**

The filing of an application does not end the Stewards' inquiry. The Stewards may require the trainer, owner, assistant trainer, veterinarians, specialists, or other persons to appear for interview or hearing, produce additional documents, answer written questions, or permit inspection of barns, stalls, tack rooms, treatment areas, and related locations.

The Stewards may also seek clarification or supplementation from any veterinarian or specialist whose opinion is submitted.

## **12. Review Standard and Decision**

Removal is not automatic upon submission of materials. The Stewards will review each horse individually.

A horse will not be removed from the Stewards' List unless, upon written application and review of the full record, the Stewards determine after consultation with the Official Veterinarian that:

- all required biological samples have been collected;
- all required veterinary, pharmacy, treatment, and related records have been produced;
- the horse has been examined by the Official Veterinarian or designee;
- all directed diagnostic work-up, observed work, post-work official sample, and additional veterinary evaluation, protocol, or requirement have been completed; and
- there is no unresolved veterinary finding that allowing the horse to enter and compete would presently compromise equine welfare or the integrity of racing.

A horse on the Veterinarian's List will be removed only in accordance with Commission rule and any additional written veterinary conditions imposed consistently with that rule.

The Stewards may: (a) grant the application and remove the horse from the Stewards' List; (b) deny the application; (c) defer ruling pending additional information, testing, or observation; or (d) remove the horse from the Stewards' List but maintain or require placement on the Veterinarian's List if veterinary concerns remain.

## **13. Category A Heightened Review**

For a Category A horse, the following heightened requirements apply in addition to the general requirements above:

- the horse must undergo independent veterinary examination and any specialty consultation directed by the Official Veterinarian;
- the application must specifically address the prior distress incident or van-off, the likely cause or causes, the immediate treatment provided, the horse's recovery, and the corrective measures implemented;
- the horse must complete the observed work and any directed post-work testing to the satisfaction of the Official Veterinarian; and
- if the horse is on the Veterinarian's List, the horse will remain there unless and until release is appropriate under Commission rule and written veterinary clearance is issued.

## **14. Category B Review**

For a Category B horse, the Stewards may consider the horse for removal from the Stewards' List upon satisfactory completion of the general requirements above. Because the Orders were based upon a stable-wide pattern of concern, the trainer must still provide a proposed explanation of the elevated risk pattern and objective materials sufficient to permit independent verification that the horse may safely and humanely race.

## **15. Noncompliance**

Failure to cooperate fully with the Orders or these Instructions may result in continued listing, denial of the application, additional directives, referral for further disciplinary proceedings, or such other lawful action as the Stewards, Commission, or veterinarians deem appropriate.

Examples of noncompliance include, without limitation, failure to timely produce records, incomplete disclosure, refusal to present a horse for examination or sampling, interference with inspection or sampling, failure to complete directed diagnostics, failure to complete the observed work, material inconsistencies in submissions, or submission of inaccurate or misleading information.

## **16. Reservation of Authority**

These Instructions are intended to facilitate a fair, medically informed, and legally reviewable process. They do not limit the authority of the Stewards, Official Veterinarian, Racing Veterinarian, or Commission under the Orders, the Oklahoma Horse Racing Act, or the Rules of Racing.

Nothing in these Instructions shall be construed to require release of any horse where unresolved safety, welfare, or integrity concerns remain.

## **17. Suggested Submission Checklist**

- Separate written application for each horse.
- Chronology of race, treatment, work, and health history.
- Trainer's written explanation of cause(s) and corrective measures.
- Complete veterinary, pharmacy, treatment, shipping, and work records.
- Independent veterinarian report.
- Any third-party specialist report required by the Official Veterinarian.
- All directed diagnostics and supporting results.
- Proof of required sample collection.
- Observed work completed and post-work findings submitted.
- Sworn certification by trainer.