

Endurance Horses Test Positive For Doping In UAE

The [International Federation for Equestrian Sports](#) (FEI) has confirmed seven cases of horses testing positive for [prohibited substances](#).

The FEI, for the first time, has suspended the horse trainers and riders with immediate effect. Usually, only riders receive immediate sanctions.

FEI secretary general Sabrina Ibanez said we take all breaches of the FEI anti-doping regulations extremely seriously and these latest positives demonstrate clearly that those using prohibited substances will be caught. Ibanez added this is the first time that we have suspended the trainers at the same time as the athletes, but when there are multiple breaches by one trainer, it is clear that there is something wrong with the stable management. The FEI secretary general also remarked that suspending the trainers immediately, rather than waiting until the athlete has been prosecuted, confirms that the FEI will not tolerate any attempts to enhance the performance of the horse.

All horses tested positive for the same four prohibited substances: the stimulant caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Theobromine, and Paraxanthine. Theophylline that is clinically indicated for the treatment of asthma and various respiratory diseases can be metabolized into caffeine. One of the horses also tested positive for Flumetasone, the corticosteroid, which is beneficial in the treatment of skin disorders.

Under the FEI's equine anti-doping and controlled medication rules (EADCMRs), Theophylline, caffeine and Theobromine are listed as controlled medication and specified substances and Paraxanthine is a banned substance under the FEI EADCMRs. Under the anti-doping rules, controlled medications are used to treat horses on a regular basis but must have cleared from the horse's system by the time of competition, while banned substances should never be found in the body of the horse.

The horses, all registered to the UAE, were tested at four different events at the Al Wathba venue in Abu Dhabi.

Castlebar Lightning, ridden by the UAE's Saeed Sultan Shames Al Maamri, Intisaar, ridden by the UAE's Sheikh Rashid Dalmook Al Maktoum, and Mraseel, ridden by the UAE's Sheikh Sh Hamed Dalmook Al Maktoum in the CEI2 120km ride at Al Wathba on 17 December 2016, tested positive for the four substances. Mraseel also tested positive for [Flumetasone](#).

Samples taken at the CEI2 120km ladies ride at Al Wathba, Abu Dhabi in the UAE on 26 November 2016 from Rafik De Kerpoint, ridden by Ireland's Amy Louise McAuley tested positive for all four substances.

Salam Banquetol, ridden by the UAE's Abdulla Ghanim Al Marri to finish second at the CEI2* 120km event at Al Wathba on 24 December, tested positive to all four substances, as did both Tom Jones TE, ridden by the UAE's Abdulla Ghanim Al Marri, and Aspenview Amir, ridden by the UAE's Saeed Ahmad Jaber Al Harbi at the CEI2 120km event at Al Wathba on 14 January 2016.

The seven horses are also suspended for a two-month period from the date of notification (30 January 2017). The seven riders and the trainers Ismail Mohd, Khalifa Ghanim Al Marri and Mohd Ahmed Ali Al Subose have all been provisionally suspended from the same date.