

The Atlantic Province Harness Racing Commission (APHRC) received a Certificate of Positive Analysis from the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) on Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

The certificate was from a sample collected at Inverness Raceway in Inverness Nova Scotia on September 29, 2024.

Identification protocols established the sample collected was from the horse La Playa Deo, whose trainer of record is Madison Poirier.

The certificate showed a reading of 38.8 mmol/L of Total Carbon Dioxide (TCO2). This is above the allowable limit as established by the Rules of Standardbred Harness Racing as adopted by the APHRC. La Playa Deo was not on furosemide (Lasix).

Rule 376. *If the total carbon dioxide (TCO2) is equal to 36 mml/litre or higher, said horse will be considered to have a positive test. 38.0 mmol/litre or higher if said horse is competing on furosemide (Lasix) at a racetrack which EIPH is offered shall be considered a positive test.*

Rule 377. *In the event a horse has a positive test, the judges shall impose a penalty on the horse's trainer of not less than (6) six months suspension from racing and a fine of not less than \$1,000. A 1-year probation shall also be included as part of the ruling. All purses paid shall be returned and re-distributed. Prior to re-instatement, the trainer shall be required to appear before the Commission to deliberate the conditions of re-instatement.*

The horse showing the positive test shall be excluded from racing for a period of not less than 15 days and for Class 1,2,3 and TCO2 positives must re-qualify, Class 4,5 positives do not have to re-qualify. Any trainer receiving a second positive test within twelve months from receiving the first shall be subject to a suspension of not less than 12 months with a Commission review before possible re-instatement.

The APHRC contacted the trainer on October 2, 2024, to inform her of the positive test and to provide the documentation confirming such.

As per Section 7.2 of the Rules a hearing was held with the racing judges at Inverness Raceway on Sunday, October 6, 2024. As per **Rule 377**, judges are required to apply the following sanctions:

1. A six-month suspension from October 7, 2024, to April 7, 2025.
2. A \$1000 fine
3. One year probation upon re-instatement.
4. All purses paid shall be returned and re-distributed.
5. La Playa Deo suspended for 15 days. La Playa Deo must re-qualify.
6. The trainer must meet with the Commission prior to re-instatement.