



Penalty Guidelines for Violations of Chapter 4 Equine Drugs & Medications Rules

Introduction

These Penalty Guidelines inform Federation members about possible penalties for prohibited substances and 12-hour injection rule violations. They also assist the Federation in applying penalties consistently and efficiently.

Penalty Range is a Guideline Only

The Penalty Guidelines are advisory in nature and intended to promote consistent exercise of discretion. There is no guarantee on the penalty that will be imposed in any case. The Federation reserves the right to impose penalties outside of these suggested ranges, including lower, higher, or no penalties, depending on the specific facts and circumstances of each case. Considerations such as prior violations, the severity of misconduct, deterrence requirements, cooperation, or policy objectives may warrant adjustment from the prescribed ranges. The Federation must always exercise judgment and discretion and consider appropriate aggravating and mitigating factors in determining appropriate penalties in every case.

Return of Winnings and Suspensions

All penalties listed below must include the requirement to return any trophies, prizes, ribbons, and monies won at the competition for redistribution. Additionally, all points will be nullified.

Suspensions for Category II, Category III, and Category IV Substances ***detected in samples collected after May 31, 2026***, must include suspension of the horse that had the positive finding. Suspension of the individual(s) and the horse must occur at the same time and must include the comparable date the next year for the competition where the positive sample was collected or a time period that is meaningful based on the individual's competition record.

Categories of Rule Violations

The penalties listed below indicate the minimum starting penalty for each infraction.

12-Hour Injection Rule Violation

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
Standalone	1 month	\$2,000
In conjunction with a Category I substance	1 month add-on to Category I penalty	\$2,000 add-on to Category I penalty
In conjunction with Category II, III, or IV substance	2 months add-on to relevant Category II, III, IV penalty	\$3,000 add-on to Category II, III, IV relevant penalty

Category I Substances

This Category includes overages of NSAIDs and other quantitatively restricted medications such as Dexamethasone and Methocarbamol. Note that fines may be enhanced for significant overages of the Federation's maximum permitted level.

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
First offense	Censure	\$2,000
Second offense	Censure	\$3,000
Third offense	1-month suspension	\$4,000

Category II Substances

This Category includes Prohibited Substances that have legitimate therapeutic value in the treatment of horses such as corticosteroids used for joint injections, local anesthetics used for laceration repairs, and those medications commonly used for treatment of colic, etc.

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
First offense	1-month suspension	\$2,000
Second offense	2-month suspension	\$3,000
Third offense	4-month suspension	\$5,000

Category II.a. Substances

Due to the mechanism of action, Altrenogest, Cetirizine, and Metformin will be treated as follows.

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
First	Censure	\$2,000 fine
Second	1-month suspension	\$2,500 fine
Third	2-month suspension	\$3,000 fine

Category II.b. Substances

Due to the high potential for abuse, shorter acting sedatives and tranquilizers including, but not limited to, Acepromazine, Trazodone, and Detomidine will be treated as follows.

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
First	2-month suspension	\$3,000
Second	3-month suspension	\$5,000
Third	6-month suspension	\$7,000

Category III Substances

This Category includes Prohibited Substances that are not indicated for use in horses but are FDA-approved and regulated such as some of the opiates and antipsychotics drugs.

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
First offense	6-month suspension	\$6,000
Second offense	9-month suspension	\$9,000
Third offense	15-month suspension	\$15,000

Category III.a. Substances

Due to non-regulated availability for human and animal use, and the increased risk of unintentional exposure, CBD will be treated as follows.

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
First	2-month suspension	\$3,000
Second	3-month suspension	\$5,000
Third	6-month suspension	\$7,000

Category IV Substances

This Category includes Prohibited Substances that may be used to alter the performance of the horse or may be used to avoid detection. It also includes substances that have not been FDA-approved. Some examples include but are not limited to GABA and Phenibut. The penalty for a Category IV substance may vary depending on the substance and the circumstance and could result in an expulsion or permanent ban.

Offense	Penalty Type	Fine
First offense	12-month suspension	\$12,000
Second offense	18-month suspension	\$18,000
Third offense	30-month suspension	\$30,000