



**AGENDA (V1.0)**  
**RCI MODEL RULES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2026**  
**1:30 to 2:45 PM (EDT)**  
**JW Marriott, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA**

1. Call to Order – Chair Tanya Boulmetis, Ohio Racing Commission
2. Classification of Suzetrigine (*Action Item*)
3. Classification of Tulobuteral (*Action Item*)
4. Uniform Classification Guidelines, amendment to definition of “Class 1” (*Action Item*)
5. Standardbred Committee Recommendation to amend ARCI-001-005 (73) and ARCI-025-020 (4) to add Harness Racing Medication Collaborative (in addition to Racing Medication and Testing Consortium). (*Action Item*)
6. Jockeys’ Guild: Use of Riding Crop in Quarter Horse Racing. (*Discussion Item Only*)
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

*(The Chair reserves the right to add or set aside items on this agenda or rearrange their order.)*



## **AGENDA ITEM #2**

### **Classification of Suzetrigine (*Action Item*)**



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** RMTC Board of Directors

**FROM:** Michael Hardy, DVM, Executive Director

**DATE:** March 17, 2026

**RE:** *Suzetrigine*

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Suzetrigine (VX-548, Journavx) is a nonopioid analgesic. It is an orally available Nav1.8 channel inhibitor, designed to target nociceptive pathways at the peripheral level.

Mechanism of Action: The Nav<sub>v</sub>1.8 channel, expressed predominately in sensory neurons, plays a critical role in transmitting pain signals. By selectively blocking this channel, Suzetrigine interrupts pain transmission without engaging central nervous system mechanisms that underlie sedation, respiratory suppression, or addiction.

Suzetrigine received FDA approval, January 2025, for treatment of acute moderate-to-severe pain in adults. Its use has not been investigated, and safety and efficacy data do not exist in the horse. In consideration of its mechanism of action, there are safety concerns related to its potential to mask pain and further affect the outcome of competition in racing.

*Suzetrigine is not listed in ARCI's Uniform Classification of Foreign Substances, so pursuant to ARCI Model Rules, this substance would be assigned 1A by default.*

Subsequently, the SAC completed its review of this substance and voted unanimously, Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, to recommend a 2/A classification for Suzetrigine.

**Recommendation: 2/A**



## **AGENDA ITEM #3**

### **Classification of Tulobuterol (*Action Item*)**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** RMTC Board of Directors

**FROM:** Michael Hardy, DVM, Executive Director

**DATE:** February 27, 2025

**RE:** *Tulobuterol*

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The RMTC has been advised that **Tulobuterol** has been detected in the US, currently isolated to Quarter Horse racing.

**Tulobuterol** is a long-acting beta2-adrenergic receptor agonist (LABA), a bronchodilator used to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). It is available as an inhaled product or, more notably, marketed as a transdermal patch (Hokunalin™ Tape)<sup>1</sup> for once-daily application in Japan.

**Tulobuterol** is currently approved in a limited number of countries including Japan, Germany, and China, among others.

It lacks FDA-approval for use in any species. In consideration of other  $\beta$  adrenoreceptor agonist abuse, it would have the potential to affect the outcome of a competition.

**Tulobuterol** is not listed in the ARCI's Uniform Classification of Foreign Substances document, so pursuant to ARCI Model Rules, it is assigned 1A by default. As it lacks FDA approval, it would be classified as a Banned (S0) Substances by HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control regulations.

Other  $\beta$  adrenoreceptor agonists have been classified as follows:

Albuterol – 3B, 3A in QH racing

Carmoterol – 1A

Clenbuterol – 3B, 3A in QH racing

Formoterol – 3B

Olodaterol – 3B, 3A in QH racing

Salmeterol – 3B

The SAC has completed its review of the substance and approved, by majority vote, to recommend the following classification, 3B, 3/A in Quarter Horse racing.

**Recommendation: 3/B, 3/A in Quarter Horse racing.**



## **AGENDA ITEM #4**

**Uniform Classification Guidelines, amendment  
to definition of “Class 1” (*Action Item*)**



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: RMTC Board of Directors

FROM: Michael Hardy, DVM, Executive Director

DATE: March 17, 2026

**RE: *ARCI Uniform Classification of Foreign Substances, Proposed Class 1 Language***

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Historically, RCI's drug classification scheme has been designed to reflect consistent 1) pharmacology, 2) drug use patterns, and 3) appropriateness of drug use in the race horse. There have been recent examples of other considerations for drugs with similar pharmacology being classified differently, i.e., CBD 3/B and THC 1/A, both which interact with the cannabidiol receptors, Carmoterol 1/A and Olidaterol 3/A or B, both Beta-2 Agonists.

In its January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting, SAC concluded that considerations for differences in classification, i.e., recommendation for Class 1, for substances that share the same pharmacological behavior as indicated include:

- Experimental nature of a drug/compound
- Removed from clinical trials
- No legitimate use in any species
- Clear doping intention
- Lack of Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic data
- Clear illegitimate sourcing of substance

Subsequently, the SAC voted unanimously, Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, to recommend the below proposed red-lined language and revision to the Class 1 definition to be inclusive of the above considerations. The proposed language is as follows:

ARCI Uniform Classification of Foreign Substance  
Class 1 Definition:

Stimulant and depressant drugs that have the highest potential to affect performance and that have no generally accepted medical use in the racing horse. Many of these agents are Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) schedule II substances. These include the following drugs and their metabolites: Opiates, opium derivatives, synthetic opioids and psychoactive drugs, amphetamines and amphetamine-like drugs as well as related drugs, including but not limited to apomorphine, nikethamide, mazindol, pemoline, and pentylenetetrazol. Though not used as therapeutic agents, all DEA Schedule 1 agents are included in Class 1 because they are potent stimulant or depressant substances with psychotropic and often habituating actions. This class also includes all erythropoietin stimulating substances and their analogues. Substances that have

not been approved in the species or country (in which it is being used) may also be considered Class 1 substances, unless classified herein. Class 1 also considers gene doping techniques, which include, but not limited to, gene therapies, gene editing, and genome editing in horses.

Recommendation: ARCI's Uniform Classification of Foreign Substances Class 1 definition to include the following language, Substances that have not been approved in the species or country (in which it is being used) may also be considered Class 1 substances, unless classified herein. Class 1 also considers gene doping techniques, which include, but not limited to, gene therapies, gene editing, and genome editing in horses.



## **AGENDA ITEM #5**

**Standardbred Committee Recommendation to amend ARCI-001-005 (73) and ARCI-025-020 (4) to add Harness Racing Medication Collaborative (in addition to Racing Medication and Testing Consortium). (Action Item)**

**RCI MODEL RULES COMMITTEE**  
**PETITION FOR NEW RULE OR CHANGE TO EXISTING RULE**

Please submit the following information to the Chair of the Model Rules Committee at least 45 days in advance of the next scheduled committee meeting to [www.rules@arci.com](mailto:www.rules@arci.com).

**Your Contact Information:**

<b>Name:</b>	Michael Tanner/ Michele Kopiec/ TC Lane
<b>Organization:</b>	USTA
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone(s):</b>	
<b>Fax #:</b>	
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	Michele.kopiec@ustrotting.com

**A. Brief Description of the Issue:** *To establish the Harness Racing Medication Collaborative (HRMC) as the identifying party for medication regulation in Standardbred racing.*

**B. Discussion of the Issue and Problem**

*Provide background on the issue to build context. Address the following:*

- *What specific problems or concerns are involved in this issue? Certain current medication thresholds are not representative to the harness racing industry - only the HRMC can speak for the Standardbred breed regarding medication issues*
- *Who does the issue affect? Standardbred Industry*
- *What existing model rules relate to this issue? ARCI-001-005 Purpose (73) Regulatory Limit; ARCI-025-020 Medication and Prohibited Substances (4)*
- *Provide relevant quantitative or statistical information if possible. HRMC consists of key industry leaders including multiple expert Standardbred veterinarians. Below are a few recaps of the scientific research that has been completed since the inception of HRMC in 2018:*  
[Metformin and Gabapentin](#)  
[Lasix use](#)  
[Clenbuterol and Betamethasone](#)

**C. Possible Solutions and Impact**

*Provide possible recommendations to solve the problem. Include details on each proposed solution such as*

- *What solution does this proposal provide? Provides recommendations for Standardbreds, as the physical characteristics of the Standardbred and Thoroughbred breeds are significantly different, and what thresholds apply to one breed may not apply to the other.*

- *How will the solution fix the problem? Self-explanatory*
- *How will the change affect any entities or stakeholders? HRMC recommendations will be used instead of RMTC.*
- *How will you or your organization be affected by the proposed change? As above*
- *What are the benefits of the proposed change? As above*
- *What are the possible drawbacks of the proposed change? None known*
- *Identify possible fiscal impact of the recommended change. None at this time.*

**D. Please identify any affected stakeholder groups that expressed support or opposition. (These stakeholders may include the racetracks, breed registries, owners, trainers, jockeys, veterinarians, or others.)**

- *For those stakeholder groups that have expressed an opinion, please list the points on which they agree or disagree, and the arguments they have expressed.*
- *Are there any affected stakeholder groups that have not been consulted on this proposal?*
- *Please submit any formal letters of support or opposition by stakeholder groups. This proposal was unanimously approved by the USTA Board of Directors and was circulated to the entire membership prior to the approval of the regulation.*

**E. Attach the model rule language you are proposing. Please show new language with underlined text. If you are proposing that current model rule language be eliminated, please strikeout the language to be deleted.**

(73) Regulatory Limit is the concentration of a specified regulatory analyte that has been defined and published by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium and Harness Racing Medication Collaborative and adopted by the commission such that exceeding the specified concentration is either an overage or a positive test.

(4) Any drug or metabolite thereof found to be presenting a pre- or post-race sample which is not classified in the most current RCI Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances shall be assumed to be a RCI Class 1 Drug and the trainer and owner shall be subject to those penalties as set forth in schedule "A" unless satisfactorily demonstrated otherwise by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium or Harness Racing Medication Collaborative, with a penalty category assigned.

**F. Do any racing jurisdictions currently have a version of this rule in effect? If yes, please attach copies of those rules.** *Not at this time.*

**G. Review the RCI Model Rules and identify any other Model Rules this change would affect and submit proposed amendments to those rules to comply with changes that would be made by this proposal.** *Two are listed above, there may be others which ARCI will need to define.*

***FILING THIS REQUEST WITH RCI DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE MODEL RULES COMMITTEE. IF YOU HAVE OPPOSITION FROM AN INTERESTED PARTY, YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO TRY TO REACH CONSENSUS PRIOR TO FILING THIS FORM.***



## **AGENDA ITEM #6**

### **Jockeys' Guild Proposal - Use of Riding Crop in Quarter Horse Racing (*Discussion Item*)**

**RCI MODEL RULES COMMITTEE  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

**Please submit the following information to the Chair of the Model Rules Committee at least 45 days in advance of the next scheduled committee meeting to [www.rules@arci.com](http://www.rules@arci.com).**

**Your Contact Information:**

<b>Name:</b>	Terence J. Meyocks/ Mindy L. Coleman
<b>Organization:</b>	Jockeys' Guild, Inc.
<b>Address:</b>	2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite B375, Lexington, KY 40504
<b>Phone(s):</b>	(859) 523-5625
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<b>E-mail Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:tmeyocks@jockeysguild.com">tmeyocks@jockeysguild.com</a> / <a href="mailto:mcoleman@jockeysguild.com">mcoleman@jockeysguild.com</a>

**A. Brief Description of the Issue**

There is current no uniformity with regards to the Use of the Riding Crop in Quarter Horse racing and the penalties that are being assessed. As such, the Guild is respectfully requesting review and consideration of the following proposed rule to be utilized all jurisdictions conducting Quarter Horse racing.

**B. Discussion of the Issue and Problem**

As the organization representing the majority of the Quarter Horse jockeys throughout the United States, the safety of both our equine and human athlete is paramount and of the utmost importance. Furthermore, it must be recognized that the Jockeys' Guild and our members are adamantly opposed to any animal abuse and any person who does so should be fully punished for such occurrences. While the Guild and its members recognize the need for changes that improve the well-being of the horse, we do believe that it is important to recognize that use of the riding crop is still necessary, not only for safety, but also for communication, control of the horse, and assurance of maximum placing. This cannot be emphasized enough.

The Use of the Riding Crop has been at the forefront of issue before the Jockeys' Guild for several years, with regards to public perception, as well as the specifics of the riding crops that are being used. There were discussions with many state regulators that adopted rules and policies regarding the Use of the Riding Crop, starting in 2019, many of which adopted based on the realities of Thoroughbred and not the Quarter Horse racing. However, the Guild did, and continues to maintain, that any changes made had to be mindful of the Quarter Horse jockeys as well. Unfortunately, there are certain jurisdictions where the rule that was intended for Thoroughbreds are being applied to Quarter Horses.

With that being said, the rules with regards to the Use of the Riding Crop in Quarter Horse racing vary so extensively, with some jurisdiction not having any regulation at all and others that are so overly burdensome that it is unreasonable for the jockeys to be able to put forth their best efforts.

It should also be noted that it was actually some of our members who have requested to establish a model rule. Many of these jockeys travel from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and it is very challenging for them to adjust their riding styles and techniques day to day. Additionally, many of the Quarter Horse jockeys have expressed concerns over the way the crop is used and the jockeys' riding styles in the jurisdictions in which there is regulations on the use of the riding crop.

Additionally, with regards to the jurisdiction that does not allow use of the riding crop in the morning, but for safety purpose, there have been and continues to be serious safety concerns. Given the fact jockeys are prohibited from using a riding crop in the morning, especially with the younger horses, there are issues and concerns of using it in the afternoon for the first time.

Furthermore, in some jurisdictions, the fines and penalties are so excessive and draconian that there are detrimental consequences occurring, both economically to the jockeys, as well as the perception of Quarter Horse racing. To excessively penalize individuals with such large fines and or suspensions for minor transgressions, including going one or two times over the strike count, is completely unjust and unreasonable. While we recognize there must be penalties for the minor transgressions, the Stewards should be allowed to impose a penalty that is suitable to a particular violation. However, the fines and penalties in certain jurisdictions are extensive, excessive and are unduly harsh. Moreover, it should be noted that the fines and penalties in certain jurisdictions actually far exceed what is being imposed for the Thoroughbred jockeys, even those under HISA. This causes great concern in light of the economic variations from racetrack to racetrack, the number of days of racing, and the monies earned by jockeys who are risking their lives. It should also be noted that with different purses structures throughout the country for Quarter Horse races, most jockeys do not make enough money to cover excessive fines or to be unable to earn a living because of unreasonable suspensions.

### **C. Possible Solutions and Impact**

The ultimate goal is to establish a standard for the Use of the Riding Crop that is in the best interest of the welfare of the horse, as well as the industry as a whole, including the betting public. Such uniformity would be the best interest of the horses, enhance the perception of our industry, and still provide for fairness to owners, the betting public, horsemen and the jockeys. The Guild believes that, we as the industry, including our members, the AQHA and its members, the horsemen, racetracks, and the regulators, can reach a mutually agreed upon regulation with regards to the use of the riding crop in Quarter Horse racing, that will be safe and humane to the horse, while still allowing the riders to use it in a way that is necessary for encouragement and correction. We believe that the use of the riding crop is necessary, not only for safety, but also for communication, control of the horse, and assurance of maximum placing. Riding crops allow the jockey a measure of control over the horse that can be critical in certain racing situations.

It is absolutely essential to create a standard of uniformity for the Use of the Riding Crop for Quarter Horses that all jurisdictions can adopt. Any decision that is made with regards to the use

of the riding crop must take into consideration not only the safety of the horse and rider, but also the impact on the industry itself, including the owners, breeders, betting public, as well the individuals whose livelihoods depend on horseracing.

While it is the jockeys who are the ones using the riding crops and should be afforded the discretion to use it as necessary for the integrity of the race, so long as it is done in a professional manner, the rest of the industry is going to be impacted by the limitations that are being proposed. As we recognize that it is not only our members that are impacted, but also the members of the AQHA, including the owners and trainers. It will also change the handicapping of the races by the betting public, the handle, as well as possibly changing the outcome of the race, which in turn will impacts the AQHA's owners and breeders and betting public. However, uniformity will improve overall public perception.

We respectfully believe that the proposed rule we are presenting for discussion purposes is based on input from those who are directly involved and who have experience riding Quarter Horses. Additionally, we believe the Guild's proposed rule regarding the Use of Riding Crop for Quarter Horses is very similar, with only a few minor exceptions to what is already being done in jurisdictions such as Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana, and New Mexico.

With regards to the penalties that are being presented, we believe that these are reasonable based on the realities of the violations. Especially for those that are minor transgressions, including going one or two times over the strike count. To use the riding crop one or two times over should not be assessed the same penalty as a jockey who is continuing to use the riding crop when a horse is failing to respond or is clearing out of contention, used the crop in excessive manner, or when use has caused a welt or break in the skin of the horse.

**JOCKEYS' GUILD PROPOSED DRAFT  
RIDING CROP RULE  
QUARTER HORSE**

**03.02.2026**

(1) Although the use of a riding crop is not required, a jockey who uses a riding crop during a race shall do so only in a manner consistent with exerting his or her best efforts to win.

(2) In any race in which a jockey will ride without a riding crop, an announcement of that fact shall be made over the public address system.

(3) No electrical or mechanical device or other expedient designed to increase or retard the speed of a horse, other than an approved riding crop, shall be possessed by anyone, or applied by anyone to the horse at any time on the grounds of the association during the meeting, whether in a race or otherwise.

(4) A riding crop shall not be used on two (2) year-old Quarter Horses before March 1 of each year.

(5) Allowable Uses of a Riding Crop.

(a) The riding crop may be used at any time, without penalty, if, in the opinion of the stewards, the riding crop is used to avoid a dangerous situation or preserve the safety of other riders or horses in a race.

(b) A riding crop may be used to make contact with a horse to maintain focus and concentration, to control the horse for safety of the horse and rider, or to encourage a horse.

(c) a jockey:

1. May use the riding crop, in rhythm with the horse's stride and up to three (3) times in succession, and

2. Shall give the horse time to respond before using it again. Time to respond shall be at least two (2) complete strides AND one (1) of the following actions by a jockey:

A. Pausing the use of the riding crop on the horse;

B. Pushing on the horse with a rein in each hand, keeping the riding crop in the up or down position;

C. Showing the horse the riding crop without making contact; or

D. Moving the riding crop from one hand to the other.

3. May tap the horse on the shoulder with the crop in the down position while both hands are holding onto the reins and both hands are touching the neck of the horse.

(6) A riding crop may be used to make contact with a horse to maintain focus and concentration, to control the horse for safety of the horse and rider, or to encourage a horse, as referenced in subsection 5 (c) with the following exceptions:

(a) Use of the crop in any manner other than as established in subsection (5)(c) of this section;

- (b) Use of the crop on the head, flanks, or on any other part of its body other than the shoulders or hindquarters;
  - (c) Use of the crop during the post parade or after the finish of the race except when necessary to control the horse;
  - (d) Excessive or brutal use of the crop causing injury to the horse;
  - (e) Use of the crop causing welts or breaks in the skin;
  - (f) Use of the crop if the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing; or
  - (g) Use of the crop even though the horse is showing no response.
- (7) A riding crop shall not be used to strike another person.
- (8) After the race, a horse shall be subject to inspection by a racing official or official veterinarian looking for cuts, welts, or bruises in the skin. Any adverse findings shall be reported to the stewards.
- (9) A crop may be used during workouts if the use does not violate subsection (6)(c) through (i) of this section.
- (10) The giving of instructions by any licensee that, if obeyed, would lead to a violation of this section may result in disciplinary action also being taken against the licensee who gave the instructions.
- (11) Only padded/shock absorbing riding crops that have not been modified in any way may be carried in a race.
- (12) Penalties for violation of the use of the riding crop:
- (a) If a jockey rides in a manner contrary to (5)(c), unless the Stewards determine the merits of an individual case warrant consideration of an aggravating or mitigating factor, the stewards may impose a minimum fine as follows:
    - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> offense: warning
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: \$100
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: \$250 or 1 day suspension.
    - 4<sup>th</sup> offense: \$500 or 1 day suspension
    - 5<sup>th</sup> offense: \$750 or 2 day suspension.
  - 2. The increase for penalties is for each violation after the first violation after the beginning of a meet, or within a 90-day period, whichever occurs later.
  - (b) For violations of (6) (a)-(h), or if the Stewards determine that any of the violations under the Use of the Riding Crop Rule are blatant and abusive, the penalties may be more severe and are at the discretion of the Stewards based on the circumstances.
  - (c) Factors in determining whether a violation is egregious or intentional shall include at least the following:
    - 1. Recent history of similar violations;
    - 2. Number of uses over the total and consecutive limits described in subsection (5)(c);
    - 3. Whether the use was prohibited under subsection (6); and
    - 4. Whether the horse sustained an injury as a result of the prohibited use of the riding crop.