

IFHA Principles of Good Practice for Monitoring of Racing Injuries and Fatalities

Preamble

1. Racing Authorities should undertake steps to accurately monitor racing injuries and fatalities, and, when possible training fatalities. The data is to be used to perform analysis and conduct research in order to reduce injuries to horses and jockeys during racing and training, evaluate racing and training welfare performance, develop strategies to improve safety and reduce injuries. Uniform collection of data will ensure consistent reporting and allow for multi-jurisdictional research to be conducted benefiting the health and welfare of the racing horse. Therefore, it is imperative that all racing authorities implement policies and procedures aimed at:
 - a. Identifying the frequency, types and outcome of racing injuries using a standardized format that will allow valid statistical analysis;
 - b. Creating a resource for research;
 - c. Conducting research to identify markers for horses at increased risk of injury; and
 - d. Performing necropsies on all racing and training fatalities to determine the anatomical location and, at a minimum, the basic pathological diagnosis of the fatal injury.
2. Racing authorities should adopt case criteria for the collection of data related to racing injuries:
 - a. Horses whose condition results in intervention by a veterinarian appointed by a regulatory authority or racing association (“Veterinarian”). This includes, but are not limited to, horses that are:
 - Scratched or declared at the recommendation of the regulatory veterinarian;
 - Determined to be injured/unsound/in distress, or otherwise unfit in the paddock, post-parade, starting gate, during or immediately after the running of a race; and
 - Observed to injured/unsound/in distress post-race.
 - b. Best efforts should be made to submit data for horses:
 - Scratched for medical reasons not documented by the regulatory veterinarian;
 - Injured during training, or in non-race related events.
3. At a minimum, the following information should be collected: Date, track, horse identification, race information (including surface, track condition and distance), location where injury occurred, incident related information (bolted, fell, clipped heels, etc.), injury description (including limb, type and details of injury diagnosis) and outcome (fatality, non-fatality or unknown).
4. Racing authorities are encouraged to utilize a uniform definition of a race-related or training-related fatality to ensure consistent reporting and case definitions.

Race-Related Fatalities

5. Horses that die or are euthanized within 72 hours as a direct result of injuries sustained participating in a race. This includes on-track deaths as well as horses that are injured and transported to a barn or referral hospital but are subsequently euthanized within 72 hours of a race injury.

Training-Related Fatalities

6. Horses that die or are euthanized within 72 hours as a direct result of injuries sustained during training. This includes horses that are injured while training and transported to a barn or referral hospital but are subsequently euthanized within 72 hours of the injury.