



## OSAF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EQUINE WELFARE ON RACE DAYS

Following the meeting of OSAF's Official Racing Analysts and Veterinarians and Equine Welfare Committee which took place in June, OSAF is pleased to share its recommendations of measures to promote Thoroughbred welfare during race days.

### **DURING THE PRE-RACE CHECK UP:**

- \* The use of the following items is forbidden:
  - Halter with chains or wires
  - Wire bridle or muzzle
  - Testicular ties
  - Punching patches in the abdomen
  - Clamps with punching metal spikes
- \* Thoroughbreds running with bandages in the front legs will be examined.
- \* For Thoroughbreds with recurring lesions after 180 days will be examined both before their first and second race after the recurring lesion.

### **AT THE STARTING GATE:**

- \* The veterinarian will not engage in performing tongue ties.
- \* As regards bandages, an additional fix with tape will be allowed in cases in which it has fallen off.
- \* Claudication control will be performed at the request of the starter officer, jockey, veterinary officer and/or any other relevant authority.
- \* If a horse hits its head at the starting gate, this will be taken into consideration in order to proceed with an examination to consider if he is fit to race or should be pulled out from the race.
- \* If a horse loses a horseshoe on its way to the starting gate and the shoe is not recovered for reshoeing, such horse will be banned from racing.
- \* The development of a race will be followed up by a practicing veterinarian officer and a farrier equipped with medication and any necessary items to provide swift assistance to the horse in case of an accident.
- \* A series of strategic measures will be taken, in order to remove the horse from the track in case of accidents occurring within the finishing meters of the race.

### **AFTER THE RACE:**

- \* Any Thoroughbred suffering from post-race epistaxis must be suspended, according to predefined framework or programme. It is suggested to take into consideration applying the following suspension programme upon epistaxis:
  - First-time bleeder: 30 days
  - Second-time bleeder: 60 days
  - Third-time bleeder: 90 days
  - Fourth-time bleeder: in the case of Thoroughbreds running with lasix (when authorized) the horse must be banned to race for life. In the case it does not run with lasix, it is suggested it may begin receiving administration of lasix prior to competition, and then repeat an examination after it has run.