



September 9, 2014

The rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission state the following when a horse is claimed at a racetrack under its jurisdiction.

§ 183.151. Claiming regulations and procedures.

"A post-race urine or blood test, or both, shall be taken from each horse claimed out of a claiming race. The claim shall be voidable at the claimant's discretion if the forensic analysis by the Commission's laboratory results in a positive test for a prohibited substance, as provided in § 183.352 (relating to post-race saliva, urine and blood tests). The claimant shall notify the Presiding Judge in writing within 24 hours of the intention to void the claim and return the claimed horse to the original owner. The claimant shall immediately sign over to the original owner the necessary certificates of ownership of the claimed horse. This subsection does not relieve the original trainer/owner of the responsibility for the condition of the claimed horse during the trainer/owner's control or care or custody of the horse."

The following document issued by the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission sets forth the Commission's interpretation of the above referenced regulation.

When a horse is claimed blood and/or urine will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Equine Research and Toxicology (PETRL) for analysis. Upon receiving results from PETRL, notice will be given to the Racetrack Manager for dissemination. Negative test results will automatically confirm the claim of the horse and any rights to return the horse will no longer be available to the individual placing the claim.

Should results from the blood and/or urine analysis reveal the presence of any drug or medication (positive) the licensee who placed a claim on the horse prior to start of the race will have 24 hours to determine if he/she would like to keep the horse and continue to race or to void the claim and have the horse returned to the previous owner.

Exception: When the licensee who claimed the horse elects to race the horse without first receiving the results of the blood and/or urine analysis from PETRL/Commission, then that licensee may no longer void the claim, even if there is a subsequent positive test. In that instance, the claim of the horse will be deemed final and any right to return the horse will no longer be available to the individual placing the claim.

All monies involved in the claim of the horse may be released upon approval of the Presiding Judge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Crawford
Executive Secretary
PA Harness Racing Commission