

[PHILRACOM Resolution No. 14-15, March 30, 2015]

PRE-RACE INSPECTION GUIDELINES

*Adopted: 30 March 2015
Date Filed: 31 March 2015*

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 420, the Philippine Racing Commission has the jurisdiction and control over all aspects of the conduct of horse-racing, including the framing and scheduling of races, the construction and safety of horse-racing, the allocation of prizes and the security of racing.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the mandate of the Philracom under PD No. 420, the Philracom Board of Commissioners, acting upon the concerns of industry stakeholders, sees the necessity of creating Pre-Inspection Guidelines to help determine the health and fitness of horses before the races;

WHEREAS, the creation of the said Pre-Inspection Guidelines will help reduce the risk of accidents in the racetrack that could lead to injuries and disability of jockeys and even to horses and will avoid delays in "refuse to ride" cases;

NOW THEREFORE, it BE RESOLVED, as it is hereby RESOLVED by the Philracom Board of Commissioners to adopt the Pre-Inspection Guidelines as follows:

PRE- RACE INSPECTION GUIDELINES

1. All horses running for the day, including those in the official barrier trials, shall be required to undergo pre-race inspection. The Club shall provide a trotting path approximately 10-15 meters long and 2 meters wide for this purpose.
2. The inspection shall be done by the Club Veterinarian two races or one (1) hour before its scheduled run under the supervision of the Commission Veterinarian.
3. The owner, trainer or an authorized representative is required to be present during the inspection.
4. If for whatever reason, the owner/trainer/representative refuses to allow the Club Veterinarian to conduct pre-race inspection on the horse, the entry shall be withdrawn from the race. A form shall be made available to be signed by the owner/trainer/representative regarding this case. In such cases, the PHILRACOM Board shall impose a penalty on the concerned party.

5. The Club Veterinarian shall conduct the examination in the following manner:

A. Visual Examination - To check the general condition of the horse. Any abnormal findings that may affect the horse's performance as determined by the veterinarians shall be ground for its withdrawal from the race. Any other findings shall be recorded in the inspection form provided for future reference.

B. Active Examination

i. Trotting - initial procedure to check for any abnormality in gait. If positive for lameness, the horse is automatically scratched from the race.

If lameness is not apparent or is inconsistent, the veterinarian shall perform the following:

ii. Hoof Testing

iii. Palpation

iv. Flexion Test

In some instances, the veterinarians may require the assigned jockey to mount and trot the horse to observe its gait when carrying weight.

Jockeys may also request to mount their horses and have it checked by the veterinarians.

In the event that a jockey refuses to ride a horse that has been cleared fit to run by the veterinarians, the owner/ trainer/ representative shall be allowed to assign a replacement rider. In such cases, the Commission may summon the original rider for an inquiry on the matter.

6. The trainer/representative of a horse found lame during the pre-race inspection shall be notified of the findings on the horse. The horse shall then be withdrawn from the race.

7. All decisions by the Club Veterinarian must be concurred in by the Commission Veterinarian. The decision is final and non-appealable. Presentation of a veterinary certificate from an accredited veterinarian shall not be accepted.

REFUSE TO RIDE CASES

In the event that a jockey refuses to ride a horse that has been cleared by the veterinarians to be fit to run, he must inform the Board of Stewards of his refusal and the reason thereof at the earliest possible time to avoid delaying the race, thus:

1. Before race 1, the Jockeys must inform the Board of Stewards that he is not willing to ride the horse to which he has been assigned;