

Out-of-Competition Testing FAQ



Under HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program, Out-of-Competition Testing (OOCT) is administered by HIWU and is an important piece of a nationwide, strategic testing plan.

Why was my horse selected for Out-of-Competition Testing?

HIWU's test selection process is informed by what HIWU calls a Risk Assessment. In other words, what facts about that horse may suggest that there is a greater chance of Prohibited Substances being present at the time it is tested? Examples of factors that may be considered in a Risk Assessment for any given horse and thus affect their chances of being selected for testing include:

- The horse's past performances
- The horse's prior test history
- The horse's affiliation with trainers or owners who have previously committed or been suspected of committing rule violations
- Information received or acquired by HIWU's Investigations Unit about the horse

Horses are not selected randomly.

When can my horse be tested?

Horses may be selected for Out-of-Competition testing at *any* time, up to and including on race day.

What substances is HIWU looking for in Out-of-Competition Testing?

Out-of-Competition Testing is used for detecting *Banned Substances only*, meaning substances that are *never* permitted to be in a horse.

What samples are collected as part of Out-of-Competition Testing?

Blood, urine, and/or hair may be collected. The samples collected will be specific to the horse and circumstances.

How much notice will I get that my horse has been selected for Out-of-Competition Testing?

Trainers will generally not receive any prior notice that a horse has been selected for Out-of-Competition Testing.

Out-of-Competition Testing is effective in catching and deterring violations due to its unpredictability.

How is a trainer notified that their horse has been selected for Out-of-Competition Testing?

When HIWU selects a horse for Out-of-Competition Testing, Sample Collection Personnel will locate the horse based on its registered location in the HISA portal or other available data.

Once they have located the horse, the Sample Collection Personnel will notify the relevant trainer, assistant trainer, groom, etc. in person that the horse has been selected for testing.

The trainer, assistant trainer, etc. may be notified by phone, text, or email in certain circumstances, including when the horse is located on private property.

Do I have to allow HIWU or Sample Collection Personnel onto my private property?

No. If the horse that has been selected for testing is located on private property, HIWU will call the relevant individual to ask for permission to enter the property.

If they are not granted permission to access the horse on private property, HIWU will work with the trainer, assistant trainer, or other Responsible Person to determine another location such as a racetrack for testing the horse. The horse must be made available for testing at the agreed-upon location within six hours.

Can a trainer or owner refuse Out-of-Competition Testing on their horse?

Depending on the circumstances, if an individual refuses to allow a horse to be tested or is generally non-compliant or evasive toward the sample collection process, they may be subject to sanctions such as a fine and/or suspension.

Does HIWU share Out-of-Competition Test results with the owner or trainer?

HIWU does not notify owners or trainers of negative Out-of-Competition Test results. In the event of a positive test, owners and trainers will be formally notified following the same process used when a horse gets a positive for any kind of test (Post-Race, Vets' List, TCO₂, etc.).