

Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit: The Basics



What is the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit?

The Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit, also known as HIWU, is the independent agency that will be enforcing the **Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority's (HISA) Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program**.

Where did HIWU come from?

HIWU, established in 2022, is a division of Drug Free Sport International, a worldwide leader in drug testing in sports. Among Drug Free Sport International's business partners are the NFL, NBA, NCAA, MLB, PGA Tour, NASCAR, International Tennis Federation, and International Testing Agency.

What does Drug Free Sport International have to do with HISA?

Drug Free Sport International has contracted with HISA to build an enforcement agency to administer HISA's ADCM Program. That enforcement agency is HIWU.

What are HIWU's responsibilities?

- TESTING - HIWU will oversee the testing process, including:

- Managing test distribution planning (what horses will be selected for testing and when)
- Implementing all test barn and sample collection protocols
- Maintaining the integrity of chain of custody for samples

- RESULTS MANAGEMENT - HIWU will directly:

- Receive all test results from accredited laboratories
- Notify relevant constituents of test results
- Manage the hearing and/or arbitration processes following positive lab results and other ADCM Program violations

- LABORATORY ACCREDITATION - HIWU will enforce the harmonization of labs by:

- Ensuring that testing laboratories meet the required accreditation standards to maintain uniform testing capabilities across the country

- INVESTIGATIONS - HIWU's investigative arm will:

- Direct and conduct investigations of possible ADCM Program violations
- Establish a tip line for whistleblowers to confidentially pass on information about possible anti-doping and controlled medication concerns.
- Consider all legitimate sources of intelligence and information to inform testing and investigations

- EDUCATION - HIWU will maintain open communications with the Thoroughbred industry by:

- Keeping all Thoroughbred industry stakeholders apprised of the ADCM Program regulations and how they are affected
- Publishing imposed sanctions and maintaining a repository of resources for stakeholders

In addition to full-time HIWU staff members, HIWU's efforts will be facilitated by collaboration with current employees in the racing industry, including those from state racing commissions, racetracks, and laboratories, as well as veterinarians and horsemen.

Please be advised that the responsibilities and requirements set forth above are contained in the Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program regulations submitted by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). These regulations were approved by the FTC on March 27, 2023. The information enclosed herein is not exhaustive, and more information can be found by consulting the approved regulations, which were posted to the Federal Register on January 26, 2023.

