



NEWS BULLETIN

February, 2016

New Rule Regarding the Post-Race Testing of Claimed Horses: The New York State Gaming Commission has adopted a rule that eliminates the universal post-race testing of claimed horses. Effective Feb. 10, 2016, horsemen will have the option of requesting a post-race test, at the claimant's expense, on the Claim Form. The cost of the post-race test will be \$150, and horsemen must have the funds available on account when the request is made. Claimants will not be charged if the claimed horse is subject to mandatory testing.

Attention Trainers! Make Sure Your Exercise Riders Are Properly Licensed: Please be sure to verify that exercise riders are properly licensed. If an employee suffers a work-related injury and does not hold a valid exercise rider's license, that employee will NOT be covered by the Jockey Injury Compensation Fund Workman's Compensation Policy, and the claim will be filed against the trainer's own Worker's Comp policy.

NYS Gaming Commission Adopts Multiple Medication Violation Penalty System: The New York State Gaming Commission has adopted the Multiple Medication Violation Penalty System, which, along with the Controlled Therapeutic Substance List and the Accreditation of Laboratories, is a key element of the National Uniform Medication Program. Similar to the protocol used by the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Multiple Medication Violation Penalty System assesses additional penalties for repeat offenders. For the complete details of the MMVP System, click [here](#).

BEST Offering Tax Return Preparation Assistance for Backstretch Workers: As they have the past three years, BEST will once again host the VITA Tax Preparation Service, which provides backstretch workers with free tax preparation services at the BEST office. VITA is an IRS sponsored program designed to encourage lower income people to file their taxes in a timely fashion. Most workers receive refunds, due to their income bracket and the Earned Income Tax Credit. "In the past three years, over 150 backstretch workers have voluntarily participated and in aggregate have received over \$150,000 in refunds," BEST Executive Director Paul Ruchames said.

Tax preparation services will be provided at BEST starting at 10 a.m. on Feb. 2 and 16, and Mar. 1, 15 and 29. Workers who are interested in this service can call Stella Cardenas of BEST at: (516) 488-3434, ext. 101, to make an appointment.