



Equine Anti-Doping Report

For The Six Months Ended 30th June 2021

Issued July 2021

Executive Summary

The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board CLG (IHRB) is pleased to present its first Equine Anti-Doping Report which will be published bi-annually.

In total 2,449 samples were taken of which 1,752 (72%) were taken on the racecourse and at point-to-points and 697 (28%) were taken as part of the out-of-competition testing programme.

In total 10 (0.4% of all samples taken) Adverse

Analytical Findings (AAF) have been confirmed none of which are substances that are prohibited at all times.

The most significant development in the period was the granting of Authorised Officer status to 12 IHRB Officials on 21st May 2021.

Since the start of the year the IHRB have inspected 33 equine premises, testing at 18 of these, seven of which were unlicensed premises.

Introduction

Under the Horse Racing Ireland Act, 2016, the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board is responsible for the integrity of Irish racing. One of its primary functions is doping control and forensics both on and off the racecourse. This function is carried out by a team of veterinary officers and officials.

The IHRB now has the authority to sample any Thoroughbred in any place at any time. This allows the IHRB to sample all winners on the racecourse and other horses selected for specific reasons are sampled. As part of its out of competition testing programme horses

are sampled at both Trainers' yards (licensed premises) and unlicensed premises including stud farms, sales consignors' premises, pre-training premises and other equine premises.

The samples taken include blood, urine and hair and all samples taken are fully analysed by our accredited and IFHA certified laboratory LGC Laboratories based in Newmarket, England. Screening results from the sample analysis are usually reported within seven working days. All Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) are investigated fully and brought before the Referrals Committee of the IHRB.

Sample Analysis



All samples taken are analysed at LGC Laboratories in Newmarket who have been the contracted laboratory for IHRB samples since 2018. Established in 1963, LGC have a long history as world leaders in development and application of novel approaches to detect the use of anabolic steroids and other substances.

In a typical year, LGC carry out analysis of over 50,000 equine and canine samples and have an ongoing commitment to share with the

IHRB new methods of testing and research as well as investing in new technology.

LGC is one of the five International Federation Horseracing Authorities certified laboratories, enabling the IHRB to continually benefit from data and intelligence shared between the best racing laboratories around the world. It is also recognised as the leading laboratory in the analysis of steroids and hair sampling.

Collaborations

As part of its Equine Anti-Doping programme, the IHRB regularly collaborates with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and other racing jurisdictions on anti-doping matters and intelligence. It is also a member of the European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC).

The IHRB also collaborate widely both within Ireland and overseas to ensure that

we maximise use of our resources, are up to date on and have influence into anti-doping developments. Regular contact with the DAFM, An Garda Síochána and other human and animal sporting bodies in Ireland complements our membership of the technical anti-doping committees of both the European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities.

Developments in Equine Anti-Doping during the first six months of 2021

The main development has been the appointment of IHRB staff as Authorised Officers in May 2021 under Section 10 of the Animal Remedies Act, 1993 (the “Act”) following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DAFM in August 2020.

The MOU provides additional powers under the Act to the IHRB Authorised Officers who have been trained to exercise the powers and functions of Authorised Officers, including the seizing of unauthorised or prohibited animal remedies. This has developed the scope of work the IHRB can do with DAFM. The MOU allow us access the following persons and premises.

- Thoroughbred breeders, their breeding establishments, or horses from other such establishments which have not yet entered training;
- Persons acting under the direction of or under the control of a Thoroughbred breeder in relation to a horse to which the MOU applies;
- Licensed Persons and Horses in the possession of, returned in training by or

under the control of a Licensed Person within the meaning of the Rules of Racing;

- Race meetings and Point to Point fixtures held under the jurisdiction and authority of the IHRB and Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Committee;
- Any person who is an Owner, Trainer, Handler, Permit Holder, Authorised Agent, or Authorised Representative (within the meaning of the Rules of Racing and Irish National Hunt Steeplechase Rules and/ or the Irish National Hunt Regulations for Point to Point Steeplechases as appropriate) and any other person who is acting under the direction of or under the control of or on behalf of an Owner, Trainer, Authorised Agent, or Authorised Representative in relation to a horse to which the MOU applies; and
- Any land in respect of which a horse to which the MOU applies happens to be on or has been.

Since their appointment in May, IHRB Authorised Officers have carried out inspections and out of competition testing at both licensed and unlicensed premises.



IHRB Operational Activity

The IHRB's equine anti-doping programme has evolved in recent years to operate on a sophisticated risk and intelligence basis backed by rigorous processes of investigation and follow through in the event of an adverse analytical finding. As essential as taking enough samples is that we take the right samples from the right horses at the right time. By doing this,

we maximise the likelihood that we will detect prohibited substances if they are there, deter those who might be drawn to try to cheat through doping and disrupt any level of that type of activity.

The following is a summary of the sampling activity carried out in the six months ended 30th June 2021.

Raceday

NO. OF RACES	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
1,398	305	1,228	71	10

Point-to-Point

NO. OF RACES	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
147	148	0	0	1*

Out-of-Competition/Inspections

PREMISES VISITS	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDINGS
18	315	0	324	0

Follow up investigations post AAF

NO. OF INVESTIGATIONS	BLOOD	URINE	HAIR
10	29	3	26

Monthly breakdown of Out Of Competition tests

	OOCT URINE	OOCT BLOOD	OOCT HAIR SAMPLES	TOTAL
January	0	0	0	0
February	2	18	18	38
March	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0
May	1	41	38	80
June	0	285	294	579
	3	344	350	697

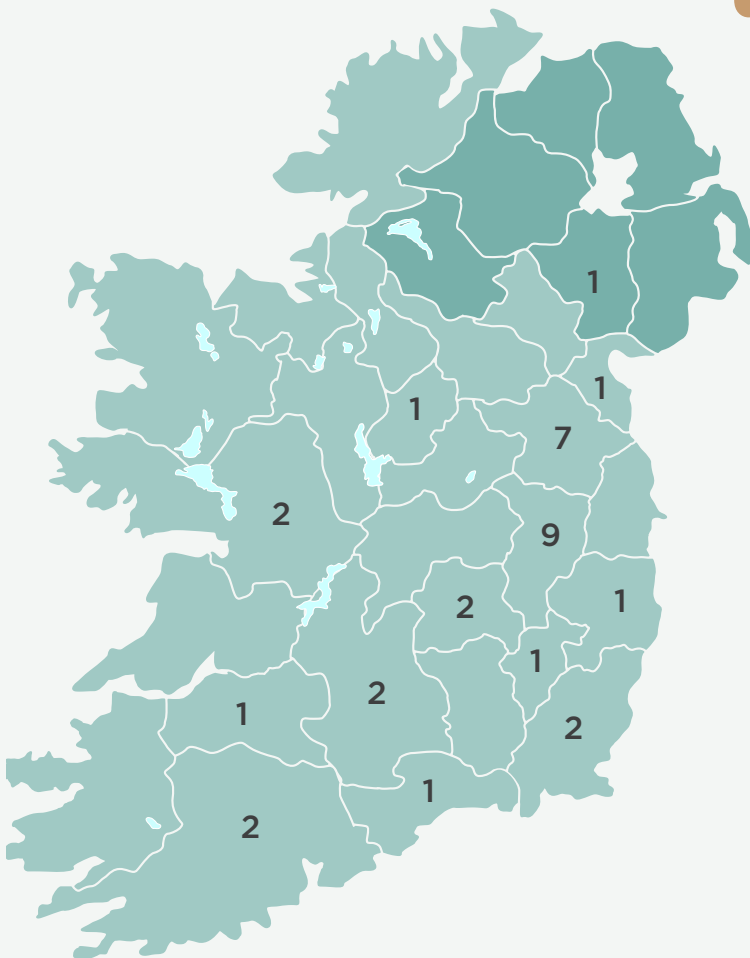
Monthly breakdown of all raceday samples

	RACE URINE	RACE BLOOD	RACE HAIR	POINT TO POINT	TOTAL
Jan	130	27	0	0	157
Feb	130	34	12	0	176
Mar	200	54	7	0	261
Apr	236	52	8	40	336
May	284	78	22	108	492
Jun	248	60	22	0	330
	1,228	305	71	148	1,752

*This figure has been updated to reflect an Adverse Analytical Finding relating to a sample taken during this period which confirmed in the second half of 2021.



Map of Inspections and OOCt in 2021



“

As a vet who has spent over two decades working with Thoroughbreds, our equine anti-doping programme is key not just to the integrity of our sport but also their health and welfare. Use of drugs to affect performance or take short cuts to rest and recuperation is not accepted by us or our racing regulatory colleagues the world over. We will not stand still in our efforts in this area - this report we believe evidences our progress so far this year and we look forward to building on it in the coming months. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of my team and others in the IHRB who are behind every statistic on these pages - their commitment to the programme cannot be overstated or appreciated enough.

“

Dr Lynn Hillyer

IHRB Chief Veterinary Officer/Head of Anti-Doping

Plans for the rest of the year

As can be seen in some of the previous tables certain areas of testing in the early part of the year were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. However the IHRB is continuing to further develop the implementation of its Equine Anti-Doping programme which will include the continuation of testing at licensed and unlicensed premises. Plans are also at an advanced stage to introduce pre-race testing and the IHRB will be available to carry out testing during bloodstock sales.



“

The publication of the initial six-month review highlights the work that the IHRB is undertaking to protect the integrity and welfare of Irish racing. The recent granting of Authorised Officer status to IHRB Officials gives the IHRB the authority to test any Thoroughbred at any time. This means the IHRB Equine Anti-Doping programme is comparable with the best Equine Anti-Doping programmes in the world.

Everyone in the industry has a vested interest in keeping doping out of our sport and I would urge anyone that has any information about the misuse of drugs to pass it on to us and it will be dealt with confidentially and appropriately. It is only by working together that we can all play our part in keeping racing drug free.

”

Denis Egan

IHRB Chief Executive Officer

