

STRONG PRESENCE of OSAF **in the INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEES** **which met in HONG KONG, December 2017**

As it happens every year, the last quarter of the calendar finds the meetings of the International Technical Committees, which convene mainly in Paris in October, and in Hong Kong in early December.

OSAF is actively present through the participation of its technician specialiss and delegates. In these meetings there's discussions and exchange of information of the current practices in the different racing nations and regions, and new problems and challenges are put on the table in order to be addressed together, for the development of the sport and the horseracing activity.

We share with the readers of OSAF NEWS the most remarkable aspects of the meetings which have taken place in Hong Kong and the most relevant conclusions for the racing activity within our region.



▪ **Genetic Doping Control Sub-Committee**

On Thursday 6th of December, this sub-committee convened, to address issues related to the International Stud Book Committee, to the definition of genetic doping, possible methods of detection, the need to provide the racing industry with information about this matter, participation at the ICRAV 2018 and research work currently being carried out.

▪ **Equine Welfare Committee**

On Thursday 7th of December, the IFHA Equine Welfare Committee meeting took place.

The IFHA continues working with the veterinary specialists from all around the World, to produce documents of recommendation of best practices to promote equine welfare since their birth, beginning of training, sports career, activity as breeders, and later retirement. Within the committee's agenda, important issues such as chemical castration, ozone therapy, anti-microbial agents and update on biophosphonates were addressed.



▪ Forbidden Substances and Practices Committee

On Friday 8th of December, the members of this committee convened, their agenda including the following issues of major relevance for our activity:



- reports of forbidden substances in process of harmonization,
- certification of laboratories,
- guidelines for the laboratory's document pack,
- update in testing carbon dioxide and Cobalt,
- hair samples testing,
- anabolic steroids,
- adherence to Article 6E on pre-race testing and current practices.
- food contamination

OSAF was requested to carry out a presentation on the occasion of the next Committee meeting on the frame of ICRAV 2018, which will take place in Dubai.

▪ Harmonization of Raceday Rules Committee

On December 8th IFHA's Harmonization Committee met, where the following issues were addressed, amongst others:

➤ ***Criteria for Judges in case of Interferences during races:***

In the World, there are 2 criteria for this. **The IFHA recommends Category 1**, by which in the case of confirmed interferences on track during a race, the Stewards or Race Judges will be able to distance or not the interferer, according to their appreciation of the eventual change in the result of the race should the interference not had taken place during the competition.

➤ ***Non-runners***

On the occasion of Paris meeting, the inclusion of a Mode Rule in "Article 32 (Running a Race)" was approved to be included in the next update of IFHA's International Agreement, which will be published in early 2018. It is important to point out that in this case non-runners should differentiate those suffering mechanical failiures at the starter from those with problems proper of the horse itself.

➤ ***Padded/shock-absorbing whips***

Besides their use in racing, it is recommended that they are also used in training.

➤ ***Automatic Stand-Down Periods – Rider Prohibited/Banned Substance Initial Notifications***

It was approved that the penalties should be regarded as any other grave misconduct and that reciprocity of penalizations should be respected and applied amongst racing authorities.



- **OSAF regional report**

OSAF showed progress within the region, especially as regards:

- harmonization of weight scale,
- proceedings related to sampling and doping control,
- doping and alcohol control in jockeys
- standarization as a unified format signal broadcasted for clients from all the racecourses in the region (image and on-screen dividends)

- **International Handicappers Committee“Longines World’s Best Racehorse Rankings Committee”**



During the week between December 4th and 11th, the members of OSAF Handicappers Committee, each one representing Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, met with their international peers in order to evaluate the performance of the best horses in their respective countries, and to agree on the ratings to be published at the beginning of January 2018 by IFHA and Longines in the World Ranking.

These approved ratings are based on the performance from January 1st till November 30th of 2017.

in this occasion, from the horses submitted by South

America, 17 were approved to appear in IFHA’s list. At the top of the South American list, features Sixties Song (ARG) with a rating of 119.

- **International Movement of Horses Committee**

On December 11th, an interdisciplinary team which conforms the International Movement of Horses Committee, met.

Being one of the common goals for IFHA and OSAF, as well as of the rest of the regional racing bodies, to work to overcome customs, fiscal and health difficulties in order to facilitate and promote the international movement of horses for competition, this Committee joins the efforts of the entities involved from all over the World.

In 2013, as an answer to the increasing need of the countries to make progress in this direction, aimed at their best horses, the OIE (Animal World Health Organization), FEI (International Equestrian Federation) and IFHA signed a public-private agreement. This agreement of mutual cooperation points at establishing a specific and practical frame, in line with the scientific standards of OIE in order to allow for countries and regions to harmonize their regulations for temporary import and the return of their competition horses, while minimizing the risk of transmsion of transborder diseases.



The ad hoc group for the International Movement of Horses for Equestrian Sports was created by OIE in 2013, and since then the members gather periodically.

In order to fulfill the objectives for facilitating the temporary movement of competition horses, the work of this committee and the regional workshops point at:

- Improved biosecurity skills and awareness within the industry
- Improved communication between industry and authorities
- Traceability of all relevant competition horses
- Effective bureaucracy and controls by competent authorities
- Agreed tools such as bilateral agreements adapted to the regional needs
- Introduction of useful customs tools for facilitating the identification and movement of the contestants
- Shorter waiting times at borders

It was agreed to work on horses with rating 110 or more, emphasizing to work on their trazability, health records and permanent monitoring.