

**AgNews**



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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## **Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission announces ban of Anabolic and Androgenic Steroids for use on Race Horses**

Today, John F. Wayne, Thoroughbred Racing Commission Executive Director, reported to the Delaware Department of Agriculture Secretary, Michael T. Scuse that the Thoroughbred Racing Commission was officially advising horsemen that a ban on Anabolic and Androgenic Steroids would be implemented by resumption of live racing at Delaware Park in April. The live racing season is tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2008.

This action is being taken to make Delaware consistent with the Mid-Atlantic jurisdictions and RMTC guidelines. These guidelines were developed in October 2007 during a meeting of regulators and representatives from several horsemen's groups. At the meeting, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the horsemen's groups reached consensus on a framework of a uniform plan that would bring consistency to the region. Subsequent to the meeting, the group provided a press release, on November 30, 2007, to inform horsemen and the public about the upcoming ban on Anabolic and Androgenic Steroids. The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission will begin to promulgate rules and regulations in the near future, well in advance of the live racing season.

According to Wayne, "It takes up to 120 days for a horse to clear steroids from their system. This advance warning gives horsemen adequate time, actually in excess of the 120 day recommended withdrawal time."

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