

**Washington Horse Racing Commission  
Policy Statement 2011-01**

Horseshoes

WAC 260-44-150 outlines the procedure to allow a trainer to race a horse either fully or partially unshod. The purpose of this policy statement is to establish a policy the stewards may use to allow a horse to race unshod on an emergency basis.

The rule as adopted requires a trainer to receive permission from the official veterinarian and to declare at time of entry if a horse is to race unshod. The board of stewards, in consultation with the official veterinarian and the trainer may allow a horse that loses a shoe immediately prior to a race to run.

If the stewards allow a horse to run unshod the public must be immediately notified.

For example, if a horse appears in the receiving barn or paddock and it is discovered that a shoe has either been lost or loosened, the paddock plater would make an attempt to repair or replace the shoe. If the plater cannot make the necessary repairs, the trainer would be given the option of either removing the other shoe or scratching the horse. If the trainer opts to race and the official veterinarian agrees with the decision, the stewards could allow the horse to run. An announcement would be made and notice posted on the video feed.

Adopted by the Washington Horse Racing Commission  
April 15, 2011