



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON HORSE RACING COMMISSION**

April 2, 2019

## Cannabidiol (CBD) Update

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The attached **RMTC Cannabidiol Bulletin** is a comprehensive summary regarding the use of CBD containing products in the racehorse and anyone considering their use will find it very useful. Reading the Bulletin before this Update is recommended.

Claims made by manufacturers of these products are covered in the CBD Bulletin but are worth repeating:

There are numerous regulatory agencies involved in control of CBD's. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approves drugs following extensive reviews based upon demonstrating them to be safe and effective. An FDA approved medication undergoes rigorous scrutiny to ensure that the product contains the active ingredients in specific concentrations as stated on their labels. Non FDA approved medications, including all compounded drugs and dietary/nutritional supplements or so called "devices", do not have these guarantees or oversight.

Their purity and consistency of manufacture must be demonstrated and adverse effects must be reported to the FDA. FDA approved medications must show complete information as to their benefits and risks on their labels and ads.

Although there have been drug recalls of medications because errors have occurred this is markedly different than what occurs with non FDA approved medications. It is important to note that generic drugs also undergo an extensive approval process and like FDA approved drugs, are markedly different from compounded medications which do not have such rigorous oversight. Only one CBD containing product is FDA approved; it is a human drug indicated for epilepsy in children.

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) classifies drugs from the perspective of their potential for a recognized therapeutic use treatment along with their potential risk of abuse. The DEA recently classified the one CBD drug mentioned above to Schedule 5. No other CBD product has had been removed from Schedule 1.

The ARCI in recognition of that DEA Schedule change has classified CBDs as a Penalty 3B violation. THC is still classified as Penalty 1A. If a supplement manufacturer has an error, or is lax in production standards resulting in the product having more than 0.3% THC it is deemed Penalty Class 1A.



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The RMTC and the WHRC have not established a threshold for CBD or THC. If either are detected in a test sample in Washington the trainer faces a Penalty Class 3B or 1A violation (respectfully) with the WHRC

For all the reasons mentioned above, although CBD's may be an ingredient in what is sold as nutritional supplement they are not considered a nutritional supplement by the FDA,

At the recent regulatory veterinary meeting at Gulfstream Park. Dr. Cindy Cole, the head of the University of FL Racing laboratory, presented compelling evidence to make the following conclusions:

- The endocannabinoid system has the potential of modulating many disease processes
- There are dangers in manipulating what we don't understand fully
- CBD should probably be evaluated independently of marijuana

When considering the purported therapeutic effects of CBD's or any new treatment or medication, it is important to restate that trainers and owners should consult with their veterinarians regarding diagnosis and treatment before instituting any treatment, especially with a controlled substance. Use of non FDA approved products, and all compounded medications, pose the greater risk of violation.

Use of CBD's or a nutritional supplement containing CBD's for the benefit of omega-3 fatty acids, poses violation risks not seen from other sources of omega 3's.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

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