

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL OF LESLIE YOUNG
FROM A STEWARDS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE RULING AFTER THE
2025 CAROLINA CUP RACES**

This matter comes before the Hearing, Review, and Appeals Committee of the National Steeplechase Association (NSA) on an appeal, filed by licensed trainer Leslie Young, of a ruling made of the Stewards Advisory Committee made after a referral from the Stewards at the Carolina Cup Races on March 29, 2025 and subsequently published April 2, 2025 by the Stewards Advisory Committee of NSA which upheld the prior Stewards' ruling of March 29, 2025 and imposed upon Mrs. Young a fine of \$2,000.

Background

In March of 2024 the National Steeplechase Association (NSA) promulgated a revised Rule 9.2 which stated in relevant part "No person other than a veterinarian described in Rules 5.16, 5.17, or 5.18 shall have in his/her possession on Association Grounds, during the Race Period, any hypodermic needle, syringe, dose syringe, applicator, or similar device of any type or nature." A search conducted by the Safety Steward resulted in the discovery of a dose syringe among the belongings of Mrs. Young or one of her employees.

As a result of that discovery the Carolina Cup Stewards scratched all of Mrs. Young's entries for that day as well as an also eligible horse from her stable. The matter was referred to the Stewards' Advisory Committee which held a Zoom hearing on Monday March 31, 2025 at which time Mrs. Young was fined \$2,000.

Subsequently, Mrs. Young filed a timely appeal of the decision of the Stewards' Advisory Committee to the Hearing and Appeals Committee.

At a hearing before the Hearing and Appeals Committee, held June 11, 2025, Mrs. Young, through her attorney Andrew Mollica, conceded all of the facts stated above and argued in mitigation of the penalty that the relatively benign nature of the substance in the syringe should differentiate this violation from that in which hypodermic needles and syringes are involved.

Findings of Fact

1. Appellant, through her attorney stipulated to all of the facts set forth above.
2. A dose syringe was discovered among the possessions upon the search of Mrs. Young or her licensed employees.

Conclusions of Law

1. NSA Rule 9.2 states, in part, “No person other than a veterinarian described in Rules 5.16, 5.17, or 5.18 shall have in his/her possession on Association Grounds, during the Race Period, any hypodermic needle, syringe, dose syringe, applicator, or similar device of any type or nature.”
2. Rule 9.2 does not differentiate among the various devices it excludes based on their size, shape or purpose for use in administering medications to horses on Association Grounds during the Race Period.
3. Rule 9.2 was revised in 2024 based upon a case involving a syringe similar to the one found in this case. That revision was specifically made to clarify that this type of device was among those forbidden from the Association Grounds.
4. The contents of the device are immaterial to the violation or severity of the penalty to be imposed for violation of Rule 9.2.

Order

AND NOW, THEREFORE, This 11th day of June, 2025 it is the **ORDER** of the Hearing, Review, and Appeals Committee that the Ruling of the NSA Stewards at the 2025 Carolina Cup Races and the imposition of the fine of \$2,000 in the related Decision of the NSA Stewards’ Advisory Committee be **UPHELD**.

By The Committee:

Richard D Abbott, Chairman

Cuyler H. Walker, Member

Albert J.A. Young. Member