

**STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY  
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION**

In re:	)	
	)	
Steve Vafiades	)	
	)	CONSENT AGREEMENT
	)	
	)	
Complaint Number 2025-MSHRC-01	)	
	)	

**PARTIES**

This document is a Consent Agreement regarding the Driver/Owner/Trainer License of Steve Vafiades ("Trainer Licensee"). It is entered into between the Trainer Licensee, the Maine State Harness Racing Commission ("the Commission") and the Office of the Maine Attorney General ("Attorney General"). It is entered into pursuant to 8 M.R.S. § 279-B, and 01-017 C.M.R. Chapter 17.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. Trainer Licensee is so licensed by the Commission pursuant to 01-017 C.M.R. Ch. 1, Section 10, license number 11601.
2. Trainer Licensees licensed by the Commission are responsible for the condition of the horses they train pursuant to 01-017 C.M.R. Ch. 11, Sections 1 and 4.
3. The Commission is authorized under 8 M.R.S. § 279-B, upon notice and hearing, to levy a fine, levy a suspension, disqualify a horse, and require the return of any purse won by a horse if is found to have carried in its body either a prohibited substance or an exceedance of an allowable level of a permitted medication during any race licensed by the Commission.
4. Trainer Licensee was on record with the Commission as the trainer of the horse "Odds On Brexit" on April 25, 2025.
5. Odds On Brexit finished First in the 5th Race at the First Tracks LLC in Cumberland, Maine on April 25, 2025.
6. Dantrolene is a therapeutic medication. 5-hydroxydantrolene is a major metabolite of Dantrolene. The maximum allowable urine and/or blood concentration of 5-Hydroxydantrolene for a horse on a day for which it is scheduled to race is 100 picograms per milliliter of plasma or serum.
7. A blood sample taken from Odds On Brexit after the 5th Race on April 25, 2025 disclosed an elevated level of Dantrolene reflected by 161 pg/mL of 5-Hydroxydantrolene in the horse's serum.

### DISCIPLINARY COVENANTS

In order to fully resolve this matter without a formal adjudicatory hearing, it is hereby agreed that:

8. Trainer Licensee admits to the facts as stated above.
9. Trainer Licensee admits that the elevated level of 5-Hydroxydantrolene at 161 pg/mL of serum exceeds the regulatory threshold.
10. Trainer Licensee admits that the elevated level of 5-Hydroxydantrolene in Odds On Brexit while racing during a licensed meet constitutes a violation of 01-017 C.M.R. Chapter 11.
11. Pursuant to 01-017 C.M.R. ch. 11, presence of 5-Hydroxydantrolene is considered evidence of use of Dantrolene which is a Class 4 drug corresponding to a Class C penalty pursuant to 01-017 C.M.R. Chapter 17 Section 5.
12. Trainer Licensee admits that the violation admitted herein constitutes a violation carrying a Class C penalty.
13. As discipline for the conduct admitted to in paragraph 8 above, Trainer Licensee agrees to accept the following DISCIPLINARY ACTION:
  - A. A fine in the amount of \$500.00, which is the recommended minimum penalty for a Trainer Licensee for a violation of 01-017 C.M.R. Ch. 17, Section 5, Class C Penalty. Payment shall be made five (5) days from the last dated signature on this Consent Agreement and made payable to Treasurer, State of Maine.
  - B. The return of the purse winnings for the violation which was, in this case, \$2,100.00. Such return of purse monies shall be made no later than five (5) days from the last dated signature on this Consent Agreement. Make check payable to First Tracks Investments, LLC. Purse return check can be mailed to 42 Market Street, Portland, ME 04101-5022.
  - C. Should Licensee fail to return the \$2,100.00 purse winnings and pay the \$500.00 fine within five (5) days from the last dated signature on this Consent Agreement, licensee agrees to the immediate, automatic, indefinite suspension of his licenses until the \$2,100.00 purse winnings are returned and the \$500.00 fine are paid in full.


### FURTHER CONVENANTS

14. Trainer Licensee agrees that the Commission has regulatory authority over the activities described herein.
15. Entering into this Consent Agreement is fully voluntary. Trainer Licensee understands that instead of entering into this consent agreement, he can exercise his right to an adjudicatory hearing before any violations are found and penalties imposed.
16. Trainer Licensee expressly waives:

- a. Notice of or opportunity for hearing
  - b. Any and all further procedural steps before the Commission;
  - c. The making of any further findings of fact before the Commission; and
  - d. The right to appeal this Agreement.
17. Violation of any of the terms or conditions of this Consent Agreement by Trainer Licensee shall constitute grounds for discipline, including but not limited to modification, suspension, or revocation of licensure, the denial of licensure or re-licensure, and the imposition of civil penalties.
  18. The Commission and the Attorney General may communicate and cooperate regarding any matter related to this Consent Agreement.
  19. The Commission and Trainer Licensee agree that no further Commission action will be initiated against Trainer Licensee's license by the Commission based upon the specific violations admitted to herein, except or unless he fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this Consent Agreement. The Commission may however consider the conduct described above as evidence of a pattern of misconduct in the event that other allegations are brought against Trainer Licensee and this Consent Agreement will be admitted into evidence in any future hearing involving Trainer Licensee. The Commission may also consider the fact that discipline was imposed by this Consent Agreement in determining appropriate discipline in any further complaints against Trainer Licensee.
  20. The parties agree that this Consent Agreement may be signed in counterparts, and all counterparts together constitute one original instrument. Signatures below may be applied and/or saved electronically, with such electronic signatures and this entire document being saved electronically and given the same effect as a paper document signed in ink.
  21. This Consent Agreement is a public record within the meaning of 1 M.R.S. § 402 and will be available for inspection and copying by the public pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 408-A.
  22. Nothing in this Consent Agreement shall be construed to affect any right or interest of any person not a party hereto.
  23. This Consent Agreement is not appealable and is effective until modified in writing or terminated by the parties hereto.
  24. The effective date of this Consent Agreement shall be the date of the last necessary signature date of the fully executed Consent Agreement from the Commission.
  25. Trainer Licensee acknowledges by his signature hereto that it has had an opportunity to consult with an attorney before executing this Consent Agreement, that he executes this Consent Agreement voluntarily, and that he agrees to abide by all terms and conditions set forth herein.

I, STEVE VAFIADES, HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING CONSENT AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON ME. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT, I WAIVE CERTAIN RIGHTS. I SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY AND KNOWINGLY AND AGREE THAT I WILL BE BOUND BY THIS AGREEMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO OTHER AGREEMENT OF ANY KIND.

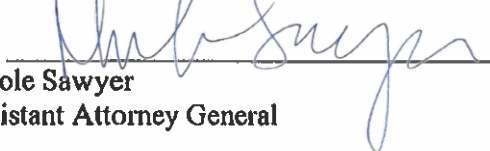
STEVE VAFIADES

By:  Date: 5/27/25

MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

By:  Date: 5/27/25  
Harry B. Center II, Chair  
Maine State Harness Racing Commission

OFFICE OF THE MAINE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

By:  Date: 05/27/2025  
Nicole Sawyer  
Assistant Attorney General