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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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BOARD BANS USE AND POSSESSION OF EPO

DEL MAR, CA – The California Horse Racing Board on Wednesday adopted a regulation prohibiting the possession and/or use of Erythropoietin (EPO) and Darbepoietin on the premises of racetracks and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Board.

EPO is a hormone produced by all animals. Darbepoietin is very closely related to EPO. Synthetic EPO was developed in human medicine for the treatment of anemia. It is believed that this synthetic EPO has been used in an attempt to enhance performance in human athletes and racehorses.

Studies show that the administration of EPO may be very detrimental to the horse because the horse's body may recognize it as a foreign substance and produce antibodies that could attack both the synthetic and natural EPO. When this occurs, the horse no longer has the ability to produce red blood cells, which can end the horse's racing career. There is no necessary veterinary use of EPO in the racehorse.

EPO and Darbepoietin are the first drugs on a new list of substances that fall under the heading of prohibited veterinary practices. The commissioners felt that banning the use and/or possession of these drugs will help protect horses, jockeys, drivers, and the integrity of racing. The new regulation conforms to one endorsed by the Association of Racing Commissioners International. Seven other states have either approved or are in the process of approving a similar regulation.

In other business, the Board authorized the Bay Meadows Foundation to distribute \$105,000 to 44 beneficiaries, including 20 percent to charities associated with the horse-racing industry. The California Thoroughbred Horsemen's Foundation, Racetrack Chaplaincy of America, and Winners Foundation each received \$6,300.

The CHRB staff reported that from the inception of account wagering in California on January 25, the three operators of Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) systems in California handled \$86.2 million through August 4. This represents approximately 6.25 percent of the \$1.4 billion combined California on-track, off-track, and ADW handle during that period. Staff added that the ADW total through August 21 easily exceeds \$90 million.

Representatives of XpressBet, TVG, and Youbet reported they have collectively opened more than 30,000 new accounts since January 25, the vast majority by residents of California. The three operators also accept wagers on California races from out-of-state account holders, which are included in the figures provided by the staff.

The Board approved license applications for the Oak Tree Racing Association to conduct a race meet at Santa Anita from October 2 through November 3 and for the Fresno County Fair to conduct a race meet at Fresno from October 2 through October 13.

Under general business, commissioners questioned representatives of Del Mar about their decision not to accept simulcast wagering on a mule race at Santa Rosa over the weekend featuring the very popular mule Black Ruby. Del Mar Executive Vice President Craig Fravel said it was a business decision based on the possibility that the race might have generated a minus win pool. He agreed to work with the Board to discuss options for the future.

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