

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
Fax (916) 263-6042

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

Los Alamitos Race Course
4961 E. Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Contact: Mike Marten
(714) 820-2748
Cell: (714) 240-1870
Fax (714) 821-6232

CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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BOARD AUTHORIZES LATE PROTESTS OF DEL MAR RACE

ALBANY, CA – Demonstrating the California Horse Racing Board’s commitment to openness, transparency, and protection of the integrity of horse racing, state racing commissioners voted unanimously Thursday to waive a time-limit rule and permit owners with interests in a race at Del Mar last summer to file protests and seek redistribution of the purse.

The six members of the Board agreed to waive Rule 1753, which requires protests to be filed within 72 hours of the race, and allow owners of horses that raced in the Palomar Breeders’ Cup Handicap on September 3 to file protests now that they are being made aware that the winner of that race, Intercontinental, was administered bleeder medication 20 minutes closer to the race than was authorized.

The three members who sit on the Board’s Medication Committee – CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro and Commissioners William Bianco and John Harris – met Wednesday to accept a 100-page report from one of the state stewards, Scott Chaney, who conducted an independent investigation into matters relating to the Del Mar race.

“The comprehensive review, which included interviews with 30 people, the principal 14 of which signed declarations under penalty of perjury, was done under full authority of the Board and was an unfettered, unobstructed review of the matter in a transparent and open manner,” Chairman Shapiro said Wednesday. “Mr. Chaney, a highly capable steward who also is an attorney and who previously worked as an assistant trainer, was selected to do the review because I know him to be independent minded and he was uniquely qualified to conduct this review.

“The report demonstrated that while tighter procedures might need to be in place – and that is something the Medication Committee soon will be reviewing – there was no attempt by anybody to cover anything up or conceal the truth – not the stewards, not the racing association, and not any of the racing commissioners or Board executives.”

After the Board meeting Thursday, Shapiro added, “The failure of communications at the time of the incident must be addressed, so that situations like this do not occur again. While I am pleased that the late administration of Lasix was brought to the attention of the Board, it is disappointing that the baseless, inflammatory allegations of a “cover up” overshadowed the importance of our improving our procedures and practices.”

On the recommendation of the Medication Committee, CHRB Vice Chairwoman Marie Moretti and Commissioners Jerry Moss and John Andreini voted with the committee members to allow the filing of protests. A panel of stewards will conduct a hearing to consider the protests. Chaney's report can be obtained by contacting the Board's public information officer, Mike Marten.

The Board authorized the disbursement of funds on a monthly basis to the Jockeys' Guild to provide health and welfare benefits to California jockeys. The Guild provides a health and welfare program for California jockeys, and that program is supported by uncashed refunds, which total approximately \$1million annually. In past years, the Guild first provided the benefits to its members, and then waited a year to be reimbursed by the fund. Under the new procedure, the CHRB will release 85 percent of the monthly pro rata share of the amount distributed in the previous calendar year.

"This will help us solve a significant cash-flow problem," explained Barry Broad, an attorney for the Guild. "The CHRB will have full access to the Guild's records relating to claims at any time."

Chairman Shapiro noted, "This change is in the best interests of the Guild, satisfies the intent of the California health and welfare fund, and should eliminate past concerns about the use of the money derived from California. We are committed to helping the Guild rebuild itself and provide much-needed health insurance to all of our valued jockeys. I applaud Mr. Broad and Mr. (Darrell) Haire (interim national manager of the Guild) for reinstating integrity into this organization."

The Board also authorized the distribution of more than \$50,000 by Hollywood Park Racing Charities and the Bay Meadows Foundation to the Disabled Jockeys Endowment Fund.

Commissioner Harris and Chairman Shapiro expressed disappointment with the current technology and adequacy of the totalizator equipment servicing patrons. In response, a representative of Scientific Games indicated that new high-tech equipment has been developed and will be replacing the older equipment this year. Commissioner Jerry Moss said the Pari-Mutuel Operations Committee that he chairs heard a presentation on the new equipment Wednesday.

In his report, Commissioner Moss said the PMO Committee also reviewed the section of law that prohibits additional simulcast locations within 20 miles of existing locations. He noted there are only 35 simulcast wagering locations in California. He said the CHRB staff will be working with the industry to develop a report that could lead to legislation to expand the number of locations.

The Board approved the license application for Hollywood Park Racing Association to conduct a horse-race meeting from April 26 through July 16, but noting the absence of the required purse agreement with horsemen, the Board served notice it would conduct a special meeting early next month to resolve the problem if that agreement is not finalized within 10 days. The Board also approved the application for Bay Meadows for a horse-race meet from May 10 through June 18.

The Board ratified an earlier action by Executive Director Ingrid Fermin and officially extended for 90 days the waiver of a rule that requires written confirmation after a horse is entered in a race by phone. The Board will be reviewing the entry process.

The Board served notice that all tracks will be required to install a video camera at the five-sixteenths pole to provide the stewards with a better view of the race on the turn for home.

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