

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

JUNE 24, 2008

**CHRB SEEKS COMMENT ON STEROIDS REGULATIONS**

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Horse Racing Board will vote next month on regulatory changes that would result in stricter penalties for anabolic steroids violations – the latest step in the Board’s commitment to eliminating anabolic steroids in California horse racing. The CHRB is soliciting comments from the public prior to a July 17 public hearing at Del Mar. Written comments, pro or con, must be received by July 14.

In earlier actions, the Board in effect banned all anabolic steroids in racing except for testosterone, boldenone, nandrolone, and stanozolol by placing all of the other steroids in Class 2 or 3 penalty categories, which call for severe sanctions for violations, including automatic forfeiture of the purse and minimum 30-day suspensions for first-time offenders. Under penalty guidelines to be implemented this July 1, testosterone, boldenone, nandrolone, and stanozolol temporarily are listed in Class 4. The regulations currently noticed to the public that the Board will vote on July 17 will move those four anabolic steroids into the stricter Class 3 penalty category.

The move to ban all anabolic steroids in California racing and the reclassification of all steroids into more serious penalty categories has been discussed at many meetings of the Board and its Medication Committee. All testimony to date has been in support of the Board’s efforts. No one has spoken publicly in opposition to this commitment to eliminate anabolic steroids from California racing.

A Jockey Club committee last week advocated the elimination of steroids in racing throughout the United States by the end of the year. If the proposed amendments are approved by the CHRB next month, the regulatory changes will complete that process in California – well ahead of most other racing jurisdictions.

“Clearly, there is no place for anabolic steroids in horse racing,” said CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro in testimony June 19 during a Congressional hearing on thoroughbred racing held by the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Some of the representatives on the Congressional Subcommittee are pushing for greater regulation of medications, particularly steroids, so the CHRB’s efforts in that regard are timely.

Horses with a medical need for anabolic steroids still could be treated, but sufficient time must pass afterwards for the administered drug to clear the system, otherwise a positive test could result. The rules take into account that certain steroids are naturally occurring in horses (endogenous) by establishing threshold levels. Any anabolic steroid administered anytime close to a race would exceed the threshold levels and certainly would be detected in post-race samples, according to Dr. Rick Arthur, the CHRB equine medical director, and Dr. Scott Stanley, director of the Ken Maddy Equine Analytical Laboratory, which performs all primary equine drug testing in California. The Maddy lab has been gearing up since early last year for the testing of anabolic steroids, which will begin July 1.

Citing the need to eliminate anabolic steroids from racing, Dr. Arthur said the drugs have adverse affects and could be contributing to the unacceptable number of catastrophic injuries in horse racing.

“Anabolic steroids mimic the male hormone testosterone,” explained Dr. Arthur. “They change the horse both physically and mentally. The mental change is the most dramatic. They help horses eat better and withstand the mental stress of hard training. The horses become more aggressive. Some horses clearly get bigger and stronger. Obviously, increased strength, and a tougher mental attitude all would be considered positive traits in a racehorse, artificially produced positive traits. Anabolic steroids allow horses to train harder. Perhaps, too hard. Over-training is a significant factor in many of the catastrophic injuries suffered by our horses. Therefore, in addition to the performance-enhancing issue, eliminating anabolic steroids could very well have a favorable, long-term impact on the longevity of horses’ racing careers.”

Written comments should be addressed to: Harold Coburn, Regulation Analyst, California Horse Racing Board, 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300. Sacramento, CA 95825. For additional details, he can be reached at (916) 263-6397 or Fax: (916) 263-6022 or e-mail ([harolda@chrb.ca.gov](mailto:harolda@chrb.ca.gov)). The exact time and location for the July 17 public hearing on this matter will be posted on the CHRB website ([www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov)) at least 10 days beforehand.

#