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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

AUGUST 1, 2008

CHRB CONSIDERS COUPLING, LICENSING PROPOSALS

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Horse Racing Board will conduct two public hearings August 19, one on a proposal to uncouple horses in the wagering even if there is some ownership overlap, provided the horses have different trainers, and the second on a regulatory amendment to allow owners to renew their licenses even if they do not own a racehorse at the time of renewal.

The Board proposes to amend Rule 1606 exempting thoroughbred horses from the coupling requirement if the horses are owned by different partnerships whose compositions are not mirror images, and there is at least one partner with an ownership interest in each of the partnerships, provided the horses have different trainers.

The uncoupling issue has been discussed at numerous public meetings, and the recommendations range from leaving the rule unchanged to eliminating coupling altogether. The racing commissioners believe the issue should be addressed one step at a time, beginning with this proposal to uncouple some horses even if there is some ownership overlap.

CHRB Vice Chairman John Harris said the change should create more wagering interests in races and help address concerns raised when one part of an entry is a late scratch, especially when the scratched horse is the heavily favored part of the entry.

The Board proposes to amend Rule 1505 to provide that an applicant for renewal of a horse owner license whose license is in good standing with the Board may renew such license regardless of whether the applicant currently owns a properly registered racehorse in the care of a licensed trainer.

Vice Chairman Harris said the “idea is to be more user-friendly...to keep owners in the game and not put up roadblocks for them” by requiring an owner to have a horse at the time of renewal.

The Board solicits public input at the public hearings and beforehand. Written comments, which must be received by August 4, should be sent by e-mail to harolda@chr.ca.gov or addressed to Harold Coburn, Regulation Analyst, California Horse Racing Board, 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300. Sacramento, CA 95825. The time for the start of the August 19 meeting in the simulcast facility at Del Mar will be posted on the CHRB website (www.chrb.ca.gov) at least 10 days beforehand. An audio link to the meeting will be available on the CHRB website.

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