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CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD



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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

APRIL 30, 2011

SUMMARY OF CHRB ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS 4-28-11

INGLEWOOD, CA – The California Horse Racing Board conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, April 28, at Hollywood Park. Chairman Keith Brackpool presided. Vice Chairman David Israel and Commissioners Jesse Choper, Bo Derek, John Harris, Jerry Moss, and Richard Rosenberg were in attendance.

The audio of this entire Board meeting is available on the CHRB Website (www.chrb.ca.gov) under the [Webcast](#) link. In brief:

- The CHRB's Medication and Track Safety Committee reported on a number of initiatives to promote the health and safety of horses and their riders, including several proposals that were approved or moved forward by the full Board at Thursday's meeting. Among the Board's actions was approval of a racetrack safety program managed by UC Davis. This program for equine welfare and injury prevention is designed to determine the reasons for death and injuries among racehorses and to share that information with the racing industry to develop prevention strategies. The annual cost of this program will be in excess of \$1 million either in total or in part from the CHRB budget.

At the Committee's recommendation, the Board also authorized for 45-day public notice proposed regulatory amendments to:

- 1) Require the preceding six months of veterinary records be provided for any horse undergoing necropsy by the CHRB Postmortem Program;
- 2) Change the penalty for violations due to the overage for the permitted non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug substance phenylbutazone and change the allowable level of flunixin in an official test sample; and
- 3) Void the claim (sale) of any horse that suffers a fatality during the running of a race or before it is returned to be unsaddled. (Commissioner Moss abstained.)

The Board also approved a new rule allowing the Board to suspend the authorization for any specifically authorized medication at a specific race meet or for a specific breed after notification at a properly noticed public hearing and the approval of at least four

members of the Board. (Commissioner Moss voted against this rule, while Vice Chairman Israel abstained.)

The Board indicated its intention to participate in discussions of the Racing Commissioners International's five-year proposal to eliminate performance enhancements in racing equines. The RCI's plan would bring medication regulations in the United States in line with the other major international racing jurisdictions.

And The Board approved a contract with the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory for the testing of racetrack surface materials as part of the CHRB effort to set safety standards and determine the cause and prevention of fatalities and injuries to horses and jockeys.

- The Board repealed the provision of the coupling rule requiring any horses to race as a single wagering interest. Along with this elimination of coupling in California, the Board requires racing associations to adequately inform the public when horses with common ownership are racing uncoupled.
- The Board approved a new procedure whereby any horse that is removed from the wagering pool in error will be allowed to run in the race for purse money only as a non-wagering interest. This change also requires racing associations to adequately inform the public of the circumstances.
- Greg Avioli, president and CEO of Frank Stronach's racing and gaming interests, reported that Stronach and his family are expected to gain full control on June 30 of Santa Anita Park, Golden Gate Fields, XpressBet, and other racing assets now controlled by MID Developments. Chairman Brackpool reported that CHRB counsel has advised the Board that Stronach will need to obtain a new waiver from the California law that prohibits one entity from owning more than one licensed horse racing facility in the state.
- The Board ratified the action of the Executive Committee and Executive Director consenting to the reduced takeout Pick 5 wager that has been offered since opening day of the current Hollywood Park meet at the joint request of Hollywood Park and the Thoroughbred Owners of California.
- The Board approved the applications for the first two fair meets of the season. The San Joaquin County Fair meet in Stockton will run from June 15 through June 19. The Alameda County Fair meet in Pleasanton will run from June 22 through July 10.
- The Board approved a regulatory amendment adding several categories to the list of financial matters that CHRB investigators and stewards will accept to determine financial responsibility. The new categories are equine hospitals and horse auction sales authorized by the Board, services by horse farms that are related to horse racing where the debt exceeds \$1,000, and wage disputes between licenses.

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