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## CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD



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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

OCTOBER 9, 2014

## O'NEILL SUSPENDED FOR PROBATION VIOLATION

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Horse Racing Board has entered into a stipulated agreement with trainer Doug O'Neill under which he is suspended for 135 days – 90 days of which are stayed – and placed on probation for 18 months for violation of a CHRB decision dated May 24, 2012. The resultant 45-day suspension is to be served commencing October 9, 2014, through November 22.

That 2012 decision, which concerned a total carbon dioxide (TCO<sub>2</sub>) violation, stated in part that O'Neill's license was placed on probation for 18 months; his license was suspended for a period of 180 days with 135 days stayed; he served 45 days of the suspension at that time. The decision further stated, "The stay shall become permanent upon successful completion of probation without a further Class 1, 2, or 3 violation in California or an equivalent violation in any United States or International Racing Jurisdiction."

On March 10, 2014, four months after O'Neill's probation in California ended, the New York State Gaming Commission issued an Order to Show Cause, alleging that O'Neill should be fined and suspended after a horse in his stable, Wind of Bosphorus, had competed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race at Belmont Park nine months earlier on June 2, 2013, with a benzodiazepine drug, containing and/or capable of metabolizing into oxazepam, a sedative. The CHRB and Association of Racing Commissioners International both classify oxazepam as a Class 2 drug with a Category A penalty.

The New York complaint was filed and the adjudication finalized after the October 29, 2013, completion of O'Neill's 18-month probation in California. The CHRB considered this a mitigating factor in reaching its decision. The new agreement requires O'Neill to begin another 18-month probationary period following his suspension, commencing November 23. During the period of probation, the stay is conditioned upon O'Neill not being found in violation of any further Class I, II, or III drug regulation or rule in California or equivalent violation in any United States or international racing jurisdiction. Furthermore, this agreement specifically states that the date of any such violation will be the deciding event, not the date of a complaint or final adjudication.

The agreement acknowledges that the CHRB will honor the separate 45-day suspension in New York, meaning O'Neill cannot return to training before December 19, 2014. CHRB Rule 1843.3 (1) pertaining to the forfeiture of assigned stall space and removal of equipment will not be invoked as the suspension of license by the CHRB is 45 days.

During his suspensions, O'Neill is denied access to all premises within the CHRB's jurisdiction.

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