

STAFF ANALYSIS
DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENT TO
RULE 1689.1, SAFETY VEST REQUIRED,
TO REQUIRE PONY RIDERS TO WEAR A SAFETY VEST

Jockey and Driver Welfare Committee Meeting
October 23, 2013

BACKGROUND

Business and Professions Code section 19420 provides that jurisdiction and supervision over meetings in this State where horse races with wagering on their results are held or conducted, and over all persons or things having to do with the operation of such meetings, is vested in the California Horse Racing Board (Board). Business and Professions Code section 19481 states that in performing its responsibilities, the Board shall establish safety standards governing equipment for horse and rider to improve the safety of horses, riders, and workers in the racing inclosure. Board Rule 1689.1, Safety Vest Required, requires jockeys and apprentice jockeys to wear safety vests when riding in a race. Additionally, the rule provides that jockeys, apprentice jockeys and exercise riders must wear a safety vest when they train or exercise any horse on the grounds of a racing association or racing fair. Rule 1689.1 also specifies that such safety vests shall meet the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) standard for horse riders' body and shoulder protectors. Safety vests protect the inner organs, ribs and spine. The padding helps prevent or lessen an injury from the impact of a fall, and reduce the amount of damage should the wearer be hit by a hoof.

ANALYSIS

On October 8, 2013, the Board received an inquiry seeking clarification on safety vest requirements for pony riders. Rule 1689.1 does not currently address pony riders, which means that pony riders are not required to wear a safety vest. The proposed amendment to Rule 1689.1 would add pony riders to the list of those who must wear a safety vest. The rule was last amended on July 2010 when harness drivers and assistant starters were added to the list of those who must wear a safety vest. The starting gate crews are addressed in the current rule under subsection 1689.1 (b), which provides that an assistant starter shall not handle any horse unless wearing a safety vest.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for Committee discussion and action.

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD
TITLE 4. CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
ARTICLE 8. RUNNING THE RACE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF
RULE 1689.1, SAFETY VEST REQUIRED

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1689.1. Safety Vest Required.

(a) No jockey or apprentice jockey shall ride in a race unless wearing a safety vest, nor shall a jockey, apprentice jockey, or exercise rider, train or exercise any horse on the grounds of a racing association, racing fair, or authorized training facility unless wearing a safety vest.

(1) No pony rider shall pony or lead a horse or be mounted on a horse on the grounds of a racing association, racing fair, or authorized training facility unless wearing a safety vest.

(b) No driver shall be mounted in or riding on a sulky, nor shall an assistant starter handle any horse on the grounds of a racing association, racing fair, or authorized training facility unless wearing a safety vest.

(c) Safety vests required to be worn in accordance with this regulation shall:

(1) Provide a minimum of shock absorbing protection to the upper body, as evidenced by a label indicating that the safety vest meets one of the following standards:

(A) "Level 1" under the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) 2009 Standard for Horse Riders' Body and Shoulder Protectors, or

(B) American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standard F2681-08, or

(C) Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association (SATRA) (1999) Jockey Vest Standard, Document M6 Issue 3, Australian Racing Board (ARB) 3.

(2) Cover the entire torso from the collarbone to a line level with the hip bone allowing a vee opening in the front neckline;

(3) Weigh no more than 2 pounds.

(4) No vest shall be altered from its original manufactured design. This includes, but is not limited to:

(A) Cutting the vest to customize fit.

(B) Removal of manufacturer's labels.

(C) Removal of protective padding.

(d) The weight of a safety vest shall not be included in the weight of a jockey or apprentice jockey when weighing out or weighing in or when adding weight to make up a weight assignment.

Authority cited: Sections 19420, 19481 and 19562,
Business and Professions Code.

Reference: Section 19481,
Business and Professions Code.