

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.chrb.ca.gov
(916) 263-6000 Fax (916) 263-6042



RACE DATES **COMMITTEE MEETING**

of the **California Horse Racing Board** will be held on **Thursday, September 19, 2019**, commencing at **8:30 a.m.**, in the Finish Line Room at the **Los Alamitos Race Course, 4961 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California**. Non-committee Board members attending the committee meeting may not participate in the public discussion, official committee vote, or committee closed session.

The agenda for the Committee meeting will consist of the following matters:

AGENDA

Agenda Items

1. Discussion regarding **2020 unallocated Southern California race dates**.
2. Discussion regarding **2020 race dates for Northern California**.
3. **General Business:** Communications, reports, requests for future actions of the Committee.

Additional information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the CHRB Administrative Office, 1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95825; telephone (916) 263-6000; fax (916) 263-6042. This notice is located on the CHRB website at www.chrb.ca.gov. *Information for requesting disability related accommodation for persons with a disability who require aid or services in order to participate in this public meeting, should contact Jacqueline Wagner.

RACE DATES COMMITTEE

Vice Chairman Madeline Auerbach, Chairman
Frederic Maas, Member
Rick Baedeker, Executive Director
Jacqueline Wagner, Assistant Executive Director

STAFF ANALYSIS
DISCUSSION REGARDING 2020 UNALLOCATED
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RACE DATES

Race Dates Committee Meeting
September 19, 2019

ISSUE:

At the August 22, 2019 regular meeting of the Board, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club (Del Mar), Los Angeles Turf Club (Santa Anita) and the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) submitted an agreement on a proposed calendar for 2020 Southern California race dates ("the proposed calendar") as follows:

Santa Anita - December 18, 2019 through June 23, 2020
Los Angeles County Fair - June 24 through June 30, 2020*
Los Alamitos - July 1 through July 7 2020*
Del Mar - July 8 through September 8, 2020
Santa Anita - September 9 through October 27, 2020
Del Mar - October 28 through December 1, 2020
Los Angeles County Fair - December 2 through December 15, 2020*

Santa Anita plans to take off three (3) weeks of racing through the Winter/Spring race meeting. They note that during the Santa Anita Winter/Spring race meeting, Santa Anita plans to take off 12 days of racing. The actual days will be determined by Santa Anita based upon then-current circumstances. In the event circumstances do not warrant taking off all, or any, of the 12 days, Santa Anita will consult with the CHRB and upon approval, will conduct racing on the balance of the 12 days.

Los Alamitos Racing Association requested that it be allocated 2020 racing dates substantially similar to those it was awarded in 2019. The California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT) also submitted a letter highlighting its considerations related to the allocation of race dates for 2020.

In addition to Del Mar, Santa Anita and TOC, the CTT and SEIU Local 280 also testified in support of the proposed calendar. The Board subsequently adopted the proposed calendar relative to all weeks except the four noted with an asterisk, above. In addition to those dates, the Board has yet to allocate dates for nighttime quarter horse racing in the south.

The Board has not allocated any dates for northern California, including daytime thoroughbred, racing fairs, and nighttime standardbred racing.

Stakeholder Proposals:

The California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) proposes the following 2020 Northern California race dates as follows:

Alameda County Fair/Pleasanton - June 19, 2020 through July 12, 2020
State Fair/ Cal Expo - July 17, 2020 through August 2, 2020
Humboldt County Fair/ Ferndale - August 20, 2020 through August 30, 2020
Note: August 20 - August 23 (un-overlapped)
August 28 - 30 (overlapped)
Big Fresno Fair/Fresno - October 8 2020 through October 18, 2020

The Sonoma County Fair strongly opposes CARF's proposed 2020 calendar and requests three weeks of racing for 2020:

The first two weeks would be with the Sonoma County Fair and the last week would be without a Fair. Dates of racing with the Fair would be from July 29-August 11 and then August 12 – 18 for the non-Fair racing dates. Live racing would run on July 30 , 31, August 1 and 2 , August 6-9 and then August 14- 16.

Watch and Wager LLC (WAW), operator of Cal Expo harness racing, requests the following 2020 Standardbred race dates to be run at Cal Expo:

December 26, 201 through May 3, 2020 (Winter/Spring meeting).
October 30, 2020 through December 24, 2020 (Fall meeting).

The request is consistent with WAW 2019 racing calendar. It is anticipated that racing will be conducted Friday and Saturday evenings during the proposed race dates.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for discussion.
Staff recommends the Committee hear from the industry representatives.

Indicates day normally raced

Weeks counted by # of Sundays

*SA plans to take off 3 weeks worth of racing through the Winter/Spring meet

License Periods

SA - December 18, 2019 through June 23, 2020

LACF - June 24 through June 29, 2020

Los Al - July 1 through July 7, 2020

DMR - July 8 through September 8, 2020

SA - September 9 through October 27, 2020

DMR - October 28 through December 1, 2020

LACF - December 2 through December 15, 2020

SA WS	26
SA Autumn	7
Los Alamitos TB	1
LACF	3
DM Summer	8
DM Fall	5
DMS Import only	1
SA WS Import only	1
Total	52

SA WS*	104
SA Autumn	25
Los Alamitos TB	3
LACF	11
DM Summer	36
DM Fall	15
Total	194

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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Live Cards 4

Weeks 1

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Live Cards 18

Weeks 4

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Live Cards 19

Weeks 5

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Live Cards 5 9

Weeks 1 3

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Live Cards 17

Weeks 4

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Live Cards 3 12

Weeks 1 3

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Live Cards 1 16

Weeks 0 4

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Live Cards 17

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Weeks 1 1 2

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29	30					

Live Cards 14

Weeks 5

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Live Cards 17

Weeks 4

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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Live Cards 21

Weeks 5

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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Live Cards 8

Weeks 1 2

Assumptions SA WS - 4 cards a week with provision for canceling a minimum of 12 flex cards due to weather/inventory concerns; imports only 12/16 - 12/25/20

LACF - 3 cards a week in June, 4 cards a week in December

Los Al Summer - 3 cards a week in July

DMS - 5 cards a week except 4 during w/e 8/30; imports only 7/8 - 7/17/20

SA Autumn - 3 cards per week in Sept, 4 per week in October

DMF 3 cards a week except 4 during Thanksgiving holiday week



DATE: August 14, 2019

TO: California Horse Racing Board

COPY: California Racing Stakeholders

FROM: California Thoroughbred Trainers [CTT],
Alan F. Balch – Executive Director

SUBJECT: Development of 2020 Thoroughbred Racing Calendar

PRESIDENT

EOIN HARTY

NO CAL VICE PRESIDENT

GLORIA HALEY

SO CAL VICE PRESIDENT

TIM YAKTEEN

TREASURER

RAY BELL

SECRETARY

ANGIE CARMONA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RENE AMESCUA

RAY BELL

TIM BELLASIS

GLORIA HALEY

EOIN HARTY

SEAN MCCARTHY

EDDIE TRUMAN

TIM YAKTEEN

IN MEMORIAM

NOBLE THREEWITT

President & Director

EXECUTIVE STAFF

ALAN F. BALCH

Executive Director

BILL PATTERSON

No California Manager

ANGIE CARMONA

Deputy Director

SO. CALIFORNIA - MAIN OFFICE

Santa Anita Park

285 W. Huntington Drive

Arcadia, CA 91007

P.O. Box 660039

Arcadia, CA 91066-0039

(626) 447-2145 (Office)

(626) 446-0270 (Fax)

E-Mail: info@caltrainers.org

NO. CALIFORNIA - FIELD OFFICE

Golden Gate Fields

1100 Eastshore Highway

Berkeley, CA 94710

P.O. Box 6027

Berkeley, CA 94706

(510) 524-3081 (Office)

(510) 524-5280 (Fax)

E-Mail: nocact@aol.com

www.caltrainers.org

As requested by Executive Director Baedeker, here are considerations submitted by CTT for your review as to allocations of dates for 2020.

1. We very much regret that the trainers' organization has not been involved in any informal or formal discussion of potential dates for 2020. Due to a scheduling problem, we were unable to attend the one open meeting we understand was held at Del Mar, chaired by Commissioner Auerbach with Commissioner Maas and other stakeholders in attendance. Nevertheless, we were informed a proposed schedule was circulated at that meeting, of which we received a copy, that most if not all other stakeholders apparently had already agreed to.
2. The foal crop is now at levels of the mid-1960s, when Santa Anita raced 11 weeks, and Hollywood Park raced 11 weeks, and Del Mar raced 7 weeks. There were no overlaps between north and south in California except during the summer Fair season. The trainers are acutely aware of the pressure on the horse population in California due to a year-around calendar, north and south, with a foal crop that is less than half of what it was when the calendar was expanded to approximately its present format in the early 1980s. We believe that if the industry is serious about its commitment to horse welfare, that commitment must be recognized in the allocation of racing dates.
3. It is inappropriate to have excluded any stakeholder from serious private discussions resulting in recommendations to the California Horse Racing Board. Individual stakeholders should have their own private discussions with each other, of course, but the intentional exclusion of CTT from discussions when all or most others are invited is puzzling and counter-productive. Trainers, after all, are the "absolute insurers" of the racing condition of our horse population, and are bearing a greater burden than ever before in the media/public eye, from associations, and from regulators.
4. We recognize the economic pressure faced by racing associations and owners. We share it! Isn't it therefore incumbent upon us all to share the decision-making process as to the racing schedule?

5. As we have stated repeatedly in the past, the California racing schedule should be considered as a whole, not separately as to north and south. After all, one ownership entity controls both Golden Gate Fields and Santa Anita. Horses are shipping to race from their bases, at whatever location, to race elsewhere more than ever before. We believe there must be much greater synergy between those two schedules, particularly as to turf racing opportunities beginning in April, and coordination of racing programs.
6. Here are the givens in the racing calendar, as far as we're concerned: first, Del Mar's seasons of 7 weeks in the summer and 4 weeks in the fall must be preserved. Those two meets are now the peak of our state's racing program. Second, the annual calendars both north and south should begin the day after Christmas, continuing a commencement date on which California's nationwide prominence depends. From that point forward, however, through the late December holiday period on to July, we simply must become more creative and sensible about racing weeks and numbers of racing days, and races, per week.
7. We do not believe that a calendar of six uninterrupted ****months**** of racing at Santa Anita can easily or properly be sustained, especially if followed by another six or seven uninterrupted weeks of Santa Anita racing in September/October/November. There is too much uninterrupted racing at Santa Anita, and "simulcast" interruptions of four days on only three occasions during the entire year is not enough. We need to consider not only the economic consequences of more sustained "breaks," but also the consequences as to horse welfare if we do not have such breaks, not to mention the near-constant pounding of the turf course and track surfaces at Santa Anita. We need to have serious soul-searching as to Santa Anita's stakes, overnight, and turf programs throughout the year, with input from the trainers as well as the owners and the other associations.
8. The economic consequences of longer or different breaks need to be better understood, as to association profitability, purse generation, and funding of industry programs; we have not been included in any such discussions.
9. Indirectly, we have been advised that Del Mar is unwilling or unable to operate a race meeting in the spring. This possibility should be re-visited and better understood to see if the obstacles/problems as to such a meeting can be resolved, either in 2020 or the future.
10. The obvious drawback to scheduling racing weeks at Los Alamitos is the absence of a turf course. However, with proper advance consideration of timing, any weeks awarded there would seem to be an ideal opportunity to expand turf racing at Golden Gate, and perhaps even to add days at Golden Gate during weeks when Santa Anita might be dark.

California Horse Racing Board

August 14, 2019

Page 3

11. Although not strictly related to scheduling racing weeks, racing's leadership should look to traditional purse distribution as inhibiting current field size, given the much-reduced horse population. If economic factors require more racing weeks than the historic foal crops would indicate, then we need to consider seriously altering purse distribution to provide economic incentives for more participation. When greater than 80% of purses are won by fewer than 20% of connections, it's obvious that that economic model cannot be sustained in the present situation. And a robust program of overnights is critical to generating stakes purses.

12. Finally, bear in mind that the many holiday periods from December through July could potentially be exploited to give differing race schedules/meetings special and separate identities: the obvious holiday period from Christmas through New Year's Day weekend can sustain more racing days; mid-January where the Martin Luther King holiday results in a three-day weekend; President's Day weekend in February; Memorial Day weekend in May; Fourth of July week. The greater likelihood of inclement weather in January through February should be a consideration in the southern schedule, where Golden Gate has the advantage of its synthetic all-weather main track. While there is something to be said for a steady schedule of three- or four-day racing weeks, to be sure, it's possible to envision an entirely new approach of more racing days within specific periods, followed by only weekend racing, or even some lengthier breaks. Such "alternative schedules" should be considered for reasons of both relief to the horse population and marketing opportunities to refresh public interest. From a public perception or media standpoint, more short race meetings (each with an individual identity) within the extended period of December through July ought to be considered seriously, especially based on coordination between Santa Anita and Golden Gate Fields.

STAFF ANALYSIS
DISCUSSION REGARDING 2020 RACE DATES FOR NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Race Dates Committee Meeting
September 19, 2019

ISSUE:

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 October 30, 2020 through December 24, 2020 (Fall meeting).

The request is consistent with WAW 2019 racing calendar. It is anticipated that racing will be conducted Friday and Saturday evenings during the proposed race dates.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for discussion.
 Staff recommends the Committee hear from the industry representatives.

Proposed Northern California Race Dates DRAFT

2019

Updated 6-28-19

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30	31				

Race days subject to change

Pleasanton
Sacramento
Ferndale (Unoverlapped)
Ferndale (Overlapped)
Fresno

2020

January						
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September						
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27	28	29	30	31		

July 31, 2019

Mr. Rick Baedeker, Executive Director
California Horse Racing Board
1010 Hurley Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Baedeker,

As tomorrow is opening day of our race meet and Fair I am unable to attend the meeting in Del Mar. However I would like to officially present our dates request for 2020.

We are requesting three weeks of racing for 2020. The first two weeks would be with the Sonoma County Fair and the last week would be without a Fair. Dates of racing with the Fair would be from July 29-August 11 and then August 12 – 18 for the non-Fair racing dates. Live racing would run on July 30 , 31, August 1 and 2 , August 6-9 and then August 14- 16.

I understand there is a proposal from CARF to push Fairs farther into the summer which would push the Sonoma County Fair into the school year. This would be devastating for our Fair, our FFA and 4-H programs and our Fair guests. As such we do not support the moving of the race dates for the Fair racing circuit. Our school year in 2020 is scheduled to start on August 12.

I appreciate your presenting this at the meeting tomorrow and look forward to the Dates Committee meeting to have an opportunity to discuss our concerns.

Best Regards,

Rebecca Bartling
Chief Executive Officer
Sonoma County Fair/ Wine County Racing

Jaqueline Wagner
Assistant Executive Director
California Horse Racing Board
1010 Hurley Avenue #210
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: 2020 Harness Racing Dates Allocation Request

Dear Jackie,

Watch and Wager LLC operator of Cal Expo harness racing would like to request the following 2020 standardbred race dates to be races at Cal Expo. Our split meet date request is consistent with our 2019 racing calendar.

December 26th, 2019 through May 3rd, 2020 for the Winter/ Spring meeting.

October 30th, 2020 through December 24th, 2020 for the Fall meeting.

It is anticipated that racing will be conducted Friday and Saturday evenings during the proposed allocated periods.

We thank the Board for their consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Schick

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
COMMITTEE MEETING

There is no committee meeting material for Item 3