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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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BOARD PREPARES FOR SAFE, SUCCESSFUL BREEDERS' CUP

DEL MAR, CA – The California Horse Racing Board waived three of its rules for the Breeders' Cup this October 24 and 25 at Santa Anita Park and took other steps Tuesday to ensure the integrity and success of the world championship races.

The Breeders' Cup, which will be hosted for the next two years by the Oak Tree Racing Association, was a dominant theme of the early morning meeting of the CHRB Medication Committee and the later meeting of the full Board in the Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Race Track. In a series of reports and actions relating to the Breeders' Cup, the racing commissioners:

- Authorized jockeys to use any of three styles of whips in Breeders' Cup races, as they prefer, including a "riding crop" now popular in Europe that is more soft and flexible than traditional whips. Last year, the Board approved a similar "kinder" whip for use in California as an alternative to traditional whips.
- Waived the lip-tattoo requirement for European horses with the understanding there are other reliable methods of ensuring the accurate identification of those horses. While lip tattoos are the principal means of identifying horses racing in North America, Europe has advanced to the use of microchip implants, so horses racing there are not tattooed.
- Authorized attendants to accompany European horses onto the racetrack and lead them to the starting gate, as is sometimes the custom in Europe, so as not to disrupt the routine of those horses and cause them any disadvantage.
- Received a progress report from Santa Anita on the replacement of the main track with another synthetic surface. Santa Anita President said the project is proceeding ahead of schedule and they "hope to have horses on the track by the end of next week." This will give horses nearly a month to train on the new Pro-Ride synthetic surface before the start of the Oak Tree meet and nearly two months before the Breeders' Cup.
- Approved the license for the Oak Tree meet at Santa Anita from September 24 through October 26 after hearing an extensive report from Oak Tree executives indicating they will be increasing their budget for an aggressive marketing campaign and offering quality racing, including a Saturday program (September 27) featuring six Grade I races. Oak Tree also will offer a "Living Legends" pari-mutuel race

October 18 with the horses ridden by eight retired Hall of Fame jockeys: Angel Cordero Jr., Jacinto Vasquez, Sandy Hawley, Pat Day, Chris McCarron, Jerry Bailey, Gary Stevens, and Julie Krone.

- Received reports from staff on steps being taken to enhance security for the Breeders' Cup and ensure its integrity. Veterinary and security teams will be in place days before the Breeders' Cup, monitoring horses and activities in the backstretch and in public areas. Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies will provide security personnel for the October 24-25 programs, along with the full contingent of CHRB investigators and the Big Events Team provided by the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau. And there will be extra stewards on duty in the stable area and paddock.

“I am very excited that the most beautiful racetrack in the country, Santa Anita Park, will be the venue for racing's marquee days,” said CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro. “The Oak Tree Racing Association and Santa Anita (Los Angeles Turf Club) are making every effort to make this a spectacular event, and our Board will do everything possible to make this Breeders' Cup the most successful ever.”

In other business, the Board approved the reallocation of dates to the Los Angeles Turf Club for the race meet at Golden Gate Fields from September 17 through December 21. The discussion included a brief report from the Thoroughbred Owners of California that XpressBet, YouBet, and TwinSpires are the only ADW companies that have expressed interest in offering wagering on the meet. Conversely, during the discussion of the Oak Tree application, Executive Vice President Sherwood Chillingworth said Oak Tree is in the final year of its exclusive agreement with TVG, which along with YouBet will be the only ADW companies offering wagering for the Oak Tree meet.

The Board approved the license application for the Big Fresno Fair to conduct a meet from October 1 through October 13. Fair representatives provided an 18-page catalogue of improvements made at the fairgrounds facility over the past year, including the planting of 1,200 trees, backstretch improvements to the tack rooms and stall doors, grandstand improvements to the restrooms, and the installation of a new rubber tile floor and a drainage system in the paddock. Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Fresno for the work and its commitment to horse racing.

The Board amended Rule 1606 to exempt 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. Vice Chairman John Harris said the change will create more wagering interests and should help address concerns when one part of an entry is a late scratch.

The Board amended Rule 1505 to allow horse owners to renew their licenses even if they do not own a horse at the time of renewal. Vice Chairman Harris said, ““Anything we can do to

encourage people to own a horse is good,” meaning that once they are relicensed and they remain part of the racing community, they are more likely to breed, claim, or purchase horses. “This is to accommodate owners of horses that are not currently at the track in the stable of a licensed trainer,” he later explained. “It applies to previously licensed owners to allow them to renew their license before their horse may be physically present at the track.”

The Board authorized the distribution of \$33,360 in race day charity proceeds by the Bay Meadows Racing Association to the Northern California Council of the Racetrack Chaplaincy, Winners Foundation, California Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Foundation, and Disabled Riders Endowment.

The racing commissioners agreed to order a procedure whereby paymasters will not distribute purses to owners, trainers, and jockeys until they receive clearances for each and every race from the CHRB indicating there were no drug positives requiring purse redistributions. Almost all drug tests are processed within one week, so the delay in distributions should be minimal. The Board took this action because of the sometimes difficulty of getting purse money returned when a test comes back positive, especially when the recipient has left the state or the country.

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