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CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD



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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMARY OF CHRB ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS 11-21-19

DEL MAR, CA – The California Horse Racing Board conducted its regular meeting Thursday, November 21, at the Del Mar Hilton. Chairman Gregory Ferraro presided. Vice Chair Oscar Gonzales and Commissioners Dennis Alfieri, Fred Maas, Wendy Mitchell, and Alex Solis also were in attendance.

The meeting opened with commissioners electing Dr. Gregory Ferraro their new chairman, replacing Chuck Winner, whose term on the Board concluded in September. Dr. Ferraro practiced veterinary medicine for 27 years at Southern California thoroughbred racetracks before accepting the position of Director of the Center for Equine Health at the University of California, Davis, in 1997. His activities involved promoting research and education in equine medicine and securing the health and welfare of all breeds of horses. He retired in 2014.

The commissioners elected Oscar Gonzales their vice chair, replacing Madeline Auerbach, who resigned from the Board this month. Vice Chair Gonzales has been vice president of government and community relations at Aura Financial Corporation since 2017. Prior to working in the private sector, he worked in state and federal government for approximately 20 years with a focus on agriculture, immigration, community organizing, and economic empowerment issues.

Chairman Ferraro made clear in opening remarks the tenor and direction the Board will be taking under his leadership.

“The days of permissive medication are over,” said Dr. Ferraro, choosing his own words but delivering them with the authority of Governor Gavin Newsom, who appointed him to the Board in June. “We will gradually eliminate medications and keep them away from racing and training.”

He said the Board has a new mandate from the Governor’s Office, “and that mandate is, primary number one, health and safety of the horses. Myself and the other commissioners fully intend to carry out that mandate, which means, though we have made several important new regulations and changes, there are many more to come, and the ones that have yet to come are going to be much more difficult.”

Executive Director Rick Baedeker outlined for Board and public comment recommendations the CHRB will be submitting to Governor Newsom. The Governor asked the Board on November 4 to submit recommendations for reform within 30 days. The recommendations are:

- 1) Statutory change to make public any positive drug test within 24 hours of confirmation.
- 2) Statutory change to direct revenue from CHRB licensing and penalties (approximately \$1 million annually) to welfare and safety measures.
- 3) Statutory change to make confidential veterinary records open to horse owners, practicing veterinarians, Official Veterinarians, and to some degree trainers and jockeys.
- 4) Require any horse placed on the high-priority watch list by the review panel to also be placed on the Veterinarian's List and prohibited from racing and training until removal from that list by the Official Veterinarian.
- 5) Establish stricter criteria for removal from the Veterinarian's List, possibly to include digital scanning (e.g. MRI and PET-scan, both of which are being installed at Santa Anita).
- 6) Post weekly fatality reports on the CHRB website, which is currently being arranged. (A fatality report based on trainer records will be introduced in the upcoming CHRB annual report.)
- 7) Require the tracks to protect whistleblowers who report suspicious activity. (The CHRB currently has a hotline [800-805-7223] and website link to receive confidential reports.)
- 8) Prohibit racing and training on tracks that have been modified due to weather conditions. (A similar condition will be in place for the upcoming meet at Santa Anita with exact details yet to be determined.)
- 9) Gradually prohibit/eliminate administration of corticosteroids.
- 10) Continue to research the desirability of synthetic surfaces.
- 11) Eliminate extracorporeal shock wave therapy. (The CHRB is currently moving a regulation that prohibits horses from racing within 30 days of receiving such treatment.)
- 12) Require submission of the most recent 30 days of medical reports for horses entered to race.
- 13) Explore stronger rule options to require trainers to comply with advice from veterinarians.
- 14) Continue to increase the use of out-of-competition (OOC) testing, which involves testing horses not yet entered to race, as opposed to the more widespread testing of post-race samples. (The CHRB tested more than 2,500 OOC samples in the last fiscal year.)
- 15) Provide ongoing education for trainers and veterinarians on the risks of corticosteroids and certain other medications. (This will be part of a continuing education program.)
- 16) Review penalty guidelines.

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

- The Board approved the license for the Los Angeles Turf Club to conduct a race meet at Santa Anita Park from December 26, 2019, through June 21, 2020, on condition they: 1) Run no races in which the horses can be claimed (purchased) for less than \$10,000; 2) submit a detailed plan by December 3 on steps to be taken to protect horses from injury during inclement weather when the racing surface is modified; and 3) prohibit horses from racing within 30 days of being administered corticosteroid injections in the fetlock joint and also prohibit horses from high-speed training within 10 days. Furthermore, Santa Anita cannot offer racing on 12 unspecified days of its allocated racing dates, a further incentive to protect horses from racing during adverse weather conditions.
- The Board put over until its December 12 meeting consideration of proposed changes to the rule governing use of the riding crop. The delay will allow the Board to discuss the proposals with the newly formed Thoroughbred Safety Coalition in hope of developing language similar to that which is likely to be adopted by other racing jurisdictions in North America.
- During public comment, the Board heard from a number of people expressing their views on animal rights, the importance of racetrack jobs, and other issues concerning the life of a racehorse.
- Commissioners and the executive director acknowledged and thanked Chuck Winner, Madeline Auerbach and Araceli Ruano for their service on the Board. They also recognized this was the final Board meeting for Commissioner Maas, whose term is expiring, and expressed their thanks to him.
- The Board approved for public notice a proposed regulation requiring trainers and assistant trainers to complete at least 12 hours of continuing education casework every 36 months, beginning January 1, 2021.
- The Board put over until its December 12 meeting a regulatory amendment dealing with the transfer of certain veterinary records with the intention of adopting a more comprehensive rule as quickly as the Office of Administrative Law will allow.
- The Board approved for public notice a permanent regulation to replace an emergency regulation already in place allowing the Board to suspend a license for a race meet when necessary to protect the health and welfare of horses and riders.
- The Board approved the license application for the Los Alamitos Racing Association to conduct a daytime thoroughbred meet at Los Alamitos from December 5 through December 15.

- The Board approved the license application for Watch and Wager LLC to conduct a harness meet at Cal Expo that will commence December 27 and conclude April 25.
- The Board approved the license application for the Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing Association to conduct a night race meet at Los Alamitos that will commence December 27, 2019, and conclude December 20, 2020.
- The Board authorized the racing secretaries at Santa Anita, Los Alamitos and Cal Expo to establish for races at the approved meets entry conditions pertaining to specified drug substances or medications.
- The Board put over until its December 12 meeting consideration of the 2020 dates allocations for Northern California to allow stakeholders to reach agreement.
- The Board authorized the Los Angeles Turf Club to distribute \$106,481 in race day charity proceeds to five beneficiaries.
- The Board authorized the Pacific Racing Association to distribute \$25,496 in race day charity proceeds to eight beneficiaries.
- The Board authorized the Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing Association to distribute \$23,812 in race day charity proceeds to five beneficiaries.
- The Board authorized TVG to allow customers to sign up for Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) accounts at the www.racing.fanduel.com website as well as its own www.tvg.com website.
- The Board authorized thoroughbred and fair racetracks in the Central and Southern zones to distribute .04 percent of ADW revenue to the Southern California Stabling and Vanning Fund.
- The Board approved regulatory amendments requiring submission of certain financial information by persons with specified financial interests in ADW and certain other wagering operations.

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