

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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**Finding of Emergency  
(pursuant to Government Code section 11346.1(b)(2))**

**Notice Date: July 19, 2019**

The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) finds that an emergency exists that requires the implementation of this emergency regulation for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare, within the meaning of Government Code section 11346.1.

Government Code section 11346.1(a)(2) requires that, at least five working days prior to submission of the proposed emergency action to the Office of Administrative Law, the adopting agency provide a notice of the proposed emergency action to every person who has filed a request for notice of regulatory action with the agency. After submission of the proposed emergency to the Office of Administrative Law, the Office of Administrative Law shall allow interested persons five calendar days to submit comments on the proposed emergency regulations as set forth in Government Code section 11349.6.

**Facts Demonstrating the Existence of an Emergency & Need for Immediate Action**

During the winter meet at the Santa Anita Race Track, thirty thoroughbred horses suffered catastrophic breakdowns and were euthanized. These breakdowns happened between December 26, 2018 and June 23, 2019. Throughout this period of time, the California Horse Racing Board was involved in monitoring the race meet and investigating the fatalities. Unfortunately, while the investigations were pending, the Board was unable to take action to suspend racing in the wake of these deaths. As a result, Senate Bill 469 was introduced which expands the Board's ability suspend a license to conduct a horse race meeting when necessary to protect the health and safety of either the horse or rider. SB 469 was signed into law by California Governor Gavin Newsom on June 24, 2019 and became effective immediately. This authority is now codified in California Business and Professions code section 19481.7.

Business and Professions code section 19481.7(d) requires the Board to adopt emergency regulations to implement the authority provided by the new law. This requirement has created an emergency situation, whereby the Board will be unable to utilize the authority provided by 19481.7 until emergency regulations are passed. Horse racing continues throughout the year. Presently, thoroughbred racing is occurring in both northern California at county fairgrounds and in southern California, at the Del Mar Race Track. Additionally, Quarter Horse racing is occurring at the Los Alamitos Race Course in Cypress, California. As the Board continues to monitor and regulate these race meets, it is imperative that the Board have the authority

provided by section 19481.7 to act in the event immediate intervention is necessary to protect the health and safety of either horse or rider.

### **Authority and Reference Citations (pursuant to Gov Code 11346.5(a)(2))**

The CHRB, pursuant to the authority granted by Business and Professions Code sections 19481.7, 19440 and 19460, in order to implement, interpret and make specific the provisions of Business and Professions Code section 19481.7, proposes to add 4 CCR section 1435, Suspension of License to Conduct a Race Meeting.

### **Informative Digest (pursuant to Gov Code 11346.5(a)(3))**

The California Horse Racing Board is vested with the existing authority to grant race meet licenses in the state of California. The Board additionally has the authority to enforce compliance with existing regulations by imposing penalties against the license. The proposed emergency addition of Rule 1435 will establish that the Board may, upon petition, issue an order immediately suspending a license to conduct a race meeting or imposing restrictions.

Subsection (b)(1) establishes that the petition shall include documents in support of the petition which demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that permitting the licensee to continue to engage in the licensed activity or permitting the licensee the continue to engage in the licensed activity without restrictions would endanger the health and safety of the horses or riders that are present at the race meeting. This is necessary to ensure that the petition is supported with evidence that describes or identifies the dangerous condition or activity.

Subsection (b)(2) provides instances where the health or safety of the horse or rider may be endangered. Instances where this may exist can include, an above-average number of injuries to horses and/or riders participating in the race meeting, a condition existing within the inclosure that is likely to endanger the health and safety of the horse or rider, or for any other reason the Board finds the health or safety of the horse or rider is endangered. This subsection is necessary to delineate the clear instances where the Board may act to ensure the health and safety of the horse or rider, while still preserving the Board's flexibility to respond to unforeseen conditions that may endanger the health or safety of the horse or rider as they come up.

Subsection (c)(1) provides that notice shall be given at least 24 hours before a hearing on the petition to suspend or restrict a license. Subsection (c)(2) provides that notice may be given in writing and may be provided by electronic service, mail, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic means as the circumstances permit. Finally subsection (c)(3) indicates that notice can be given to the licensee, its designee, or any officer or director associated with the licensee. This is necessary to ensure the licensee is aware of the potential action the Board could take on the license and clarifies the manner in which the Board can provide that notice.

Subsection (d)(1) provides the rights of the licensee at the hearing on the petition. These rights include being represented by counsel, having a record made of the proceedings,

having the ability to present written evidence in the form of relevant declarations, affidavits and documents and presenting oral argument. This section is necessary to establish the due process rights afforded to the licensee at the hearing on the petition.

Subsection (e) provides that the Board shall issue a decision on the petition for suspension within five business days following submission of the matter. This is necessary to establish a timeline for the Board to take action to ensure the situation is addressed promptly.

Subsection (f) provides that the Board shall review any decision to suspend a racing license or impose license restrictions within 10 calendar days of that decision. This is necessary to provide the Board the ability review the prior action and determine whether additional action needs to be taken or if the matter effecting the health and safety of the horse or rider has been addressed.

Subsection (g)(1) provides the rights of the licensee at the review hearing. These rights include being represented by counsel, having a record made of the proceedings, having the ability to present written evidence in the form of relevant declarations, affidavits and documents and presenting oral argument. This section is necessary to establish the due process rights afforded to the licensee at the review hearing.

Subsection (h) provides that any suspension shall remain in effect until the Board determines that the matters jeopardizing the health and safety of the horse or rider have been adequately addressed. This section is necessary to clarify the Board's power to continue a suspension until the race meet is safe to resume and the matters effecting the health and safety have been addressed.

Subsection (i) provides that as a condition of lifting a suspension, the board may require a licensee to comply with additional safety standards or other requirements as it deems necessary or desirable for the best interests of horse racing and the purposes of this chapter. This section is necessary to clarify the Board's power to impose restrictions on a license that facilitate the continuance of a safe race meet for both the horse or rider.

Subsection (j) provides that failure to comply with a suspension order issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) shall constitute a separate cause for disciplinary action against any licensee. This section is necessary to clarify that any suspended licensee who continues to engage in an activity which requires a license, is subject to additional and separate disciplinary action by the Board.

Subsection (k) states that the orders provided for by this section shall be in addition to, and not a limitation on, the authority to seek injunctive relief provided in any other provision of law. This section is necessary to clarify that other relief provide by law is still available.

Finally, subsection (l) provides that a petition for an order suspending a license to conduct a racing meeting or imposing license restrictions may be filed by the Executive Director or their designee, or Equine Medical Director of the Board. This section is necessary to clarify who can bring a petition before the Board. The Executive Director or the Equine Medical Director

are the most appropriate individuals to have this authority because of their responsibility to the Board to advise on the safety of both horse and rider.

The proposed emergency regulation does not differ substantially from an existing comparable federal regulation or statute.

The proposed emergency regulation is not inconsistent or incompatible with existing state regulations.

The proposed emergency regulation will benefit the horse and rider. By implementing the authority under Business and Professions Code section 19481.7, the Board will be able to take immediate action when necessary to protect the health and safety of either the horse or rider.

#### **Statutory Requirements Specific to Agency (pursuant to Gov Code 11346.5(a)(4))**

There are no other matters as are prescribed by statute applicable to the specific state agency or to any specific regulation or class of regulations.

#### **Local Mandate Determination (pursuant to Gov Code 11346.5(a)(5))**

These proposed regulations impose no mandates on local agencies or school districts, or mandates which require reimbursement of costs or savings pursuant to Government Code sections 17500 – 17630.

#### **Fiscal Impact Statements of Cost or Savings for the Following (pursuant to Gov Code 11346.5(a)(6))**

- Cost to any local agency or school district that is required to be reimbursed: None
- Cost or savings to any state agency: None
- Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None
- Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: None