

STAFF ANALYSIS  
DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY THE BOARD REGARDING THE DISTRIBUTION  
OF RACE DAY CHARITY PROCEEDS OF WATCHANDWAGER.COM, LLC, FROM  
ITS 2024-2025 RACE MEETING

Board Meeting  
October 16, 2025

ISSUE:

Watchandwager.com, LLC (Watch and Wager) is requesting approval to distribute race day charity proceeds generated at its 2024-2025 race meeting for the period of November 5, 2024, through May 9, 2025. Watch and Wager is proposing a voluntary distribution of \$4,787.06 in addition to the statutory distribution amount of \$712.94, for a total of \$5,500.00. The attachment lists the amounts to be distributed to the selected charitable organizations. Staff notes that 100 percent of the proposed charity distributions are made to equine and/or horse racing-related charity organizations.

BACKGROUND:

Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 19550 states that the Board shall require each licensed racing association that conducts 14 weeks or less of racing to designate three racing days, and each licensed racing association that conducts more than 14 weeks of racing to designate five racing days during any one meeting, to be conducted as charity days by the licensee for the purpose of distribution of the net proceeds therefrom to beneficiaries through the distribution agent. No racing association shall be required to pay to a distributing agent for the purpose of distribution to beneficiaries more than an amount equal to two-tenths of one percent of the association's total on-track handle on live races conducted by the association at the meeting. BPC section 19555 requires that proceeds be distributed to beneficiaries within 12 calendar months after the last day of the meet during which charity days were conducted. BPC section 19556 provides that the distributing agent shall make the distribution to beneficiaries qualified under this article. At least 30 percent of the distribution shall be made to charities associated with the horse racing industry. An additional five percent shall be paid to a welfare fund for horsemen/horsewomen and backstretch personnel, and another five percent shall be paid to a nonprofit corporation, the primary purpose of which is to assist horsemen/horsewomen and backstretch personnel who are being affected adversely as a result of alcohol or substance abuse. In addition to the above distributions, a separate 20 percent shall be made to a nonprofit corporation or trust that has as its sole purpose the accumulation of endowment funds, the income on which shall be distributed to qualified disabled jockeys.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for Board discussion and action. Staff recommends that the Board approve the race day charity distribution as presented.

**CHRB ANALYSIS**

Watchandwager.com, LLC Charity Day Proceeds  
November 5, 2024 - May 9, 2025

Statutory Distribution:	\$ 712.94
Voluntary Distribution:	\$ 4,787.06
Proposed Distribution:	\$ 5,500.00

#	Nonprofit Organization	Statutory Distribution Percentage	Statutory Distribution Amount	Proposed Distribution Amount	Notes
1	Sacramento Horsemen's Association *	minimum 30%	\$ 213.88	\$ 500.00	a 30% to charities associated with horse racing industry [Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 19556(b)]
2	Standardbred Retirement Foundation *			\$ 1,700.00	
3	CA Harness Horsemen's Benevolent Foundation *	minimum 5%	\$ 35.65	\$ 300.00	b 5% to welfare fund for horsemen/horsewomen and backstretch personnel [BPC section 19556(b)]
4	Winners Foundation *	minimum 5%	\$ 35.65	\$ 2,000.00	c 5% to nonprofit organization for horsemen/horsewomen and backstretch personnel adversely affected by alcohol or substance abuse [BPC section 19556(b)]
5	Permanently Disabled Jockey's Fund *	minimum 20%	\$ 142.59	\$ 1,000.00	d 20% to nonprofit organization that benefits qualified disabled jockeys [BPC section 19556(c)(1)]

\* Equine and/or horse racing-related organization



Operating Harness Racing at Cal Expo

September 29th, 2025

Ms. Cynthia Alameda  
Assistant Executive Director  
California Horse Racing Board  
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Ms. Alameda:

Watchandwager.com, LLC has allocated charity day proceeds from our 2024/2025 Race Meet (12/13/2024– 5/2/2025) as set forth below for the California Horse Racing Board’s consideration and approval:

Sacramento Horsemen’s Association (a)	\$500.00
Standardbred Retirement Foundation (a)	\$1,700.00
CA Harness Horsemen’s Benevolent Foundation (b)	\$300.00
Winners Foundation (c)	\$2,000.00
Disabled Jockeys Fund (d)	\$1,000.00
Total:	\$5,500.00
Equine Related Charities	\$5,500.00
Non-Equine Related Charities	\$ 0.00
Percentage of Equine Related Charities	100%

Attached you will find a schedule describing the charitable organizations listed above. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you need further information, please contact Chris Schick or me.

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin Kenney  
Watchandwager.com, LLC

Sacramento Horsemen's Association: non-profit regional equestrian club established in 1942, hosts horse shows and provides boarding. (contact phone: 916-470-1337; <http://www.sachorsemen.com>)

Standardbred Retirement Foundation: non-profit, tax exempt organization created to care for, rehabilitate, and secure lifetime adoption of non-competitive Standardbred racehorses, to ensure their proper care with follow-up, and combine the needs of youth at risk with these horses in therapeutic equine programs to benefit both. (contact phone: 732-446-4422; <http://www.adoptahorse.org>)

CA Harness Horsemen's Benevolent Foundation: non-profit established by the CA Harness Horsemen's Association to provide funding and support for backstretch employees in need. (contact phone: 916-263-7888)

Winners Foundation: established in 1984 as a non-profit organization to provide information, support and referral sources to employees and family members of the California horse racing community who are being adversely affected as a result of alcohol and/or substance abuse. There is no charge to anyone seeking aid through this group, which has aided and guided thousands of individuals. (Contact phone: 626-574-6498; <http://winnersfoundation.org>)

Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund – Founded in 2006, it is a collaborative effort of many leaders in the horse racing industry, including racetracks, jockeys, horsemen and others. It is a public charity that currently provides financial assistance to approximately 60 former jockeys who have suffered catastrophic on-track injuries. It recently was the winner of the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters prestigious Joe Palmer Award for its exceptional work. Nancy LaSala is the group's president. (Contact phone: [630-595-7660](tel:630-595-7660); [www.pdjf.org/](http://www.pdjf.org/))