

Racing Reform Recommendations – January 2026

	Recommendation	Report Page#	Action	Status
Track Maintenance, Condition and Safety				
1	Track Data (Maintenance and Protocol) accessible to Horsemen (via digital record-keeping system)	8	HISA Regulation 2150. Racetrack and Racing Surface Monitoring and Maintenance and 2151. Data Collection, Recordkeeping and Submission requires all racetracks record and submit to the authority. The CHRB currently records track Clegg readings, cushion depth, moisture content, track materials composition, and other variables that should be made public.	The CHRB intends to start making track data public and plans to work with HISA to devise a national approach to this problem.
2	Implement protocols for real-time adjustment based on track performance	9	HISA Rule 2154 “Racetrack Surface Monitoring”; allows racetracks to take corrective measures to address issues of any surface in real time based on data, performance, testing and inspections of all racing and training surfaces. Also, the CHRB takes weekly track measurements and communicates to the associations/fairs any potential issues.	COMPLETE!
3	Monitor speed of surface race by race -adjusting surface for class level	9	HISA Regulation 2154. Racetrack Surface Monitoring (1) Daily surface maintenance logs (2) Documentation of the source, timing, quantity, and method of all additions to the surfaces Hazardous Weather (c) Implementation of a dangerous weather protocol, which includes for extreme heat and chill factors and air quality; (f) Requirements that the stewards shall contact Racetrack management when weather conditions may become hazardous, and that the stewards shall commence a racing and training delay when weather conditions pose risks to human and equine welfare; and (g) Designation by the Racetrack of an official responsible for enforcing any weather associated training delay. <u>The CHRB has implemented a “Inclement Weather Policy” that must be adhered to when the following events occur, no matter the class level: extreme temperatures, high winds, lightning, rain, air quality, and visibility/fog.</u>	COMPLETE! The Track Superintendent monitors all courses at all hours, especially during training and racing. They follow the CHRB Inclement Weather Policy that lists the protocol in-depth and mirrors the HISA regulation.
4	Using weather based algorithms for track maintenance and closures	18	HISA Regulation 2154. Racetrack Surface Monitoring (1) Daily surface maintenance logs (2) Documentation of the source, timing, quantity, and method of all additions to the surfaces Hazardous Weather (c) Implementation of a dangerous weather protocol, which includes for extreme heat and chill factors and air quality; (f) Requirements that the stewards shall contact Racetrack management when weather conditions may become hazardous, and that the stewards shall commence a racing and training delay when weather conditions pose risks to human and equine welfare; and (g) Designation by the Racetrack of an official responsible for enforcing any weather associated training delay. <u>The CHRB has implemented a “Inclement Weather Policy” that must be adhered to when the following events occur, no matter the class level: extreme temperatures, high winds, lightning, rain, air quality, and visibility/fog.</u>	COMPLETE! The Track Superintendent monitors all courses at all hours, especially during training and racing. They follow the CHRB Inclement Weather Policy that lists the protocol in-depth and mirrors the HISA regulation.
a	Synthetic Surfaces	(LTR)	Research indicates that synthetic surfaces decrease catastrophic injuries but are also more difficult to maintain. HISA surface monitoring protocols may lead to providing the information to make that determination of what each racing and training facilities surface should be. Data collection from around the nation is being done and HISA is still studying the information to determine whether synthetic surfaces are good for all tracks, in all climates, in all conditions . Check out the CE module "Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory". Link: https://horsemenu.mclms.net/en/package/10100/course/19410/view	Santa Anita has a synthetic surface. Other racetracks have had a synthetic course in the past with mixed results. Geography, climate conditions, and maintenance protocols dictate the best type of surface to be used at each track.

Track Management: Race Office, Entries, Conditions & Training

5	Write condition books (proposed races) based on current horse population	7	In consultation with the associations, develop a way to write condition books that better reflect the existing horse population. Possibly require compliance as a condition of a racing license application.	The racing secretary studies the eligibility of all horses on the stall applications. Then writes the races according to their conditions. Extra races are written daily (if needed) for adjustments when conditions change.
b	Medical Reports (Require past 30 days of medical history at time of entry)	(LTR)	Addition of Rule 1846.1 Veterinary Records for Horses Shipping into an Inclosure to Race. (a) If a horse has not been stabled at a facility under the jurisdiction of the Board for 30 days prior to a race, or for 30 days prior to working off the Veterinarian's List, the trainer shall submit to the official veterinarian the previous 30-day veterinary treatment record at the time of the pre-race or pre-workout examination. Add Rule 1842.5 Trainers to Maintain Medication Treatment Records.	COMPLETE!
6	Communicate with association Veterinarians during entry process. Horses that work out after entry, before they race, should be re-examined by attending veterinarians. Compromised horses should not be entered at all. Certainly, the Racing Office should not encourage such an entry.	7,30	The creation of the entry panel has largely addressed this issue and changed trainers' and racing office behavior. The entry review panel is now Statewide at all TB and QH Meets. The Board has just started the process to amend the following two rules: Rule 1581.1 require a horse to be examined to determine fitness 72 hours upon arriving on the grounds and amend Rule 1878 to require an exam 72 hours prior to a workout to determine fitness.	COMPLETE! Regulation Effective Date: January 1, 2022.
7	Standardization protocols for moving races from the turf course	18	Work with the associations to establish a protocol for turf to dirt change. Possibly make protocol a condition of licensure and should be included in the inclement weather policy.	COMPLETE!
8	Establish strict criteria for canceling racing based on weather and surface conditions	18	Require and standardize an inclement weather policy either through license application or regulation.	COMPLETE!
9	Require additional Veterinary Exams or diagnostics for horses racing or working on "off" tracks	18	This should be addressed in the inclement weather policy noted in Recommendation 8.	COMPLETE!
c	Sealed Tracks (prohibit training or racing on tracks that have been sealed)	(LTR)	This should be addressed in the inclement weather policy noted in Recommendation 8.	COMPLETE!
10	Regulatory veterinarians may conduct expanded lameness evaluations with current technology, including photography and/or video for documentation, utilizing facilities provided by management, including areas of hard (concrete) surfaces and round pens. Enable Veterinarians to do advanced	24	Regulatory veterinarians already have wide latitude to conduct examinations in a variety of ways. AB 1974 (Gray) would require associations to provide an area where veterinarians could observe horses jogging in circle in both directions.	COMPLETE!

	lameness exams by 1. Trot in circles on hard surfaces 2. Lunging 3. Watching horses exercise under saddle - exams to be documented with videos or pictures.			
11	Video Surveillance at all CHRB facilities. Tracks should consider installing systems. Consideration should be given to expanding video surveillance at all locations, including the racing ovals to monitor morning training.	30,31	The CHRB is considering requiring associations to install robust video surveillance systems as a condition of licensure by amending Rule 1920 Security Control to add "All racing associations shall install cameras covering barns, backstretch, and stalls by January 1, 2025; and shall maintain video surveillance of their facilities." A few tracks are already in compliance. The Medication, Safety and Welfare Committee directed staff to determine the costs and feasibility to employ a system at each of the remaining facilities.	IN PROGRESS! The CHRB is working on a letter to the associations for the status of their current video surveillance systems and asking for a cost estimate to install a system similar to Santa Anita's
d	Provisions for Whistleblowers	(LTR)	AB 1974 (Gray) and Rule 1450 Complaint Desk. Requires the Association to provide a place to report rule violations or file a complaint. The CHRB also has a Tip Line and an email to report.	COMPLETE!
12	Restructure Claiming rules and policies. Alternatives to the current claiming system should be considered. Purse to Claiming Price ratios to be established to ensure horses run when appropriate. Prohibit multi-level class drops.	30	Multi-level class drops have largely been addressed by the statewide entry panel. Statewide Review Panel looks at entries and considers horses dropping in class, that could result in a scratch.	COMPLETE.
Trainers and Training Practices				
13	As a contingency of stall applications/horseman's agreements, trainers are required to maintain basic health records on individual horses in their care.	24	Pass Rule 1842.5 Trainer to Maintain Medical Treatment Records - requiring trainers to record all treatments given to a horse, including veterinary procedures – such records shall be available for inspection by CHRB representatives.	COMPLETE!
14	Require continuing education for trainers	27,29	Pass Rule 1503.5 to require continuing education as a condition of renewal of license for trainer and assistant trainer - requiring 12 hours of approved continuing education during the preceding 36-month period.	COMPLETE!
e	Training for Trainers and Veterinarians	(LTR)	Rule 1503.5 requiring continuing education as a condition of licensure for trainers and assistant trainers - requiring 12 hours of approved continuing education during the preceding 36-month period. This rule became effective June 1, 2021. Veterinarians are already required to complete continuing education to maintain their license. Encourage veterinarians to take racing specific continuing education classes as part of their Veterinary license requirements.	COMPLETE!
15	Provide greater detail on recent exercise history to CHRB Review Panel to evaluate horses	27	UC Davis has developed a method of analyzing workout and training data to provide greater information and better evaluation. While not practical for every horse or race, specific cases can be evaluated.	COMPLETE!
16	Re-evaluate Workout Requirements	27	Passage of Rule 1868, Authorized Medications During Workouts. That requires the same medication rules apply to workouts as they do to races.	COMPLETE!

17	Criteria for official workouts should be established for unraced 4-year-olds, horses returning from layoffs greater than one year, and at the discretion of regulatory veterinarians for horses returning from layoffs greater than 120 days.	28	Passage of amendments to CHRB Rule 1588 requiring veterinary examination of unraced 4-year-olds, and horses returning from significant layoffs. AB 1974 (Gray), passed December 29, 2020, this will codify these requirements in the B & P Code.	COMPLETE!
18	Require diagnostic imaging based on exercise history. Official Vets can order and make a condition of continued racing or training	28	Gives regulatory Veterinarians the specific authority to condition removal from Veterinarian Lists on performance of diagnostic tests. Administrative change to bring Rule 1866 into line with the passage of AB 1974 (Gray) which was signed into law on December 29, 2020.	COMPLETE! Rule 1866 became effective July 1, 2021.
19	Require official examinations and/or workouts for horses returning from layoffs or making belated racing debuts. Additional steps should be taken to ensure that horses entering the grounds from non-CHRB facilities are suitable for training.	28,30	Passage of amendments to CHRB Rule 1588 requiring veterinary examination of unraced 4 year olds, and horses returning from significant layoffs. And passage of CHRB Rule 1846.1 that requires veterinary records for new horses shipping into inclosures.	COMPLETE!
20	Require rest for horses based on rate of accumulation of high-speed furlongs, time in training or number of high-speed events	28	CHRB should implement a CE Program for Trainers, several of these required modules discuss limiting the number of high speed furlongs and the benefits of rest for racehorses. Fatality Review Panel discusses this in depth.	COMPLETE!
21	Require review of necropsy reports by trainers and others specified on their horses	29	Passage of Rule 1846.6 Postmortem Examination Review of each equine fatality within a CHRB inclosure.	COMPLETE!

Private Practitioners & Veterinary Practices

22	Transition to digital veterinary medical records	22,23	Amend Rule 1842 Veterinarian Report - to require veterinary reports/records to be submitted electronically for clarity and ease of use.	COMPLETE!
f	Veterinarian Standards. Strengthen current regulatory language, with increased penalty guidelines, requiring veterinarians to perform examination, diagnosis and treatment protocols and strict compliance by trainers.	(LTR)	Passage of CHRB Rule 1843.4 which penalizes multiple medication positives and contemplates positives in other states. Passage of CHRB rules 1843.4 and 1866.3 which, together, strictly regulate intra-articular injections, particularly in the fetlock joint. The CHRB has stopped short of requiring diagnostics prior to injections but that is a logical next step. Lastly, some tracks have required private veterinary examination of a horse prior to workout but that has not yet been contemplated for regulation.	COMPLETE!
g	Veterinarian Medical Record Exemptions (Permit access to horse medical records to owners, CHRB veterinarians, track veterinarians, trainers, and jockeys)	(LTR)	Passage of CHRB Rule 1660.1 to require pertinent medical information from a horse claimed in a claiming race be transferred from the horse's former attending veterinarian to the horse's new attending vet on the Claimed Horse Health Record (CHRB-245) form. Introduction of Senate Bill 800 (Dodd) allows the medical record of a horse that has raced or will race be available upon request to anyone responsible for the direct care of the horse. Including the owner, trainer, or veterinarian, the CHRB, or any other state or local governmental agency and the racing association or fair.	COMPLETE!
23	Private practitioners should increase physical examinations prior to high-speed workouts, race	23	The Board has just started the process to amend the following two rules: Rule 1581.1 require a horse to be examined to determine fitness 72 hours upon arriving on the grounds and amend Rule 1878 to require an exam 72 hours prior to a workout to determine fitness.	COMPLETE! Regulation Effective Date: January 1, 2022.

	entries, and intra-articular (IA) therapy.			
24	Private practitioners should increase diagnostic procedures prior to IA therapy; the CHRB should consider regulations requiring diagnostic imaging prior to repeated IA treatments in the same horse	23	Passage of CHRB rules 1588 and add 1866.3 will limit intra-articular injections before races and workouts but stops short of requiring diagnostics prior to the injections themselves. The CHRB is amending regulations requiring diagnostic imaging prior to repeated IA treatments in the same horse. The Board is amending rules: Rule1581.1 and Rule 1878 that may require diagnostics for a horse when examined to determine fitness prior to a workout or race.	COMPLETE! Regulation Effective Date: January 1, 2022.
25	Policies on physical therapy treatments to be established identifying allowable times for physical therapy relative to racing or training, and determining which treatments require a veterinary prescription	23	The Equine Medical Director has distributed a Memo that addresses the HISA Rules and CHRB Policy regarding Physical Therapy and Prohibited Practices. The Memo can be found here: http://www.chrb.ca.gov/veterinary_reports/MEMO_CHRB_HISA_Prohibited_Practices_POLICY_12-22.pdf	COMPLETE!
26	Require medical records follow the horse. Additional steps to make veterinary records available to CHRB regulatory veterinary personnel, new owners, & trainers of horses that are transferred.	31	Passage of CHRB Rule 1660.1 Claimed Horse Health Record- requires medical information from a horse claimed in a claiming race be transferred from the horse's former attending veterinarian to the horse's new attending vet on the Claimed Horse Health Record (CHRB-245) form.	COMPLETE!

Horse Safety and Welfare				
27	Industry support for research on the proximal sesamoid bone (PSB) (osteopathic lesions) and Fetlock Injuries	27	In May of 2020, the Equine Veterinary Journal published a study by Shaffer et al entitled "Subchondral focal osteopenia associated with proximal sesamoid bone fracture in Thoroughbred racehorses."	COMPLETE!
28	Industry support for research to understand the relationship between dorsal metacarpal/metatarsal disease (DMD) and CMI	27	The CHRB staff should scan the literature to uncover whether this type of study has been completed or not. If not, encourage industry support to conduct one on this topic. Additional CE classes are being created to educate trainers. U.C. Davis has done the research on this, and the data has been presented in CHRB CE Webinars for Trainers. Their research is ongoing and will be periodically presented in Webinars when new findings are discovered.	COMPLETE!
29	Industry support of research is needed to better understand the etiology of medial PSB osteogenic lesions	28	The CHRB staff should scan the literature to uncover whether this type of study has been completed or not. If not, encourage industry support to conduct one on this topic. U.C. Davis has done the research on this, and the data has been presented in CHRB CE Webinars for Trainers. Their research is ongoing and will be periodically presented in Webinars when new findings are discovered.	COMPLETE!
30	A database of documented injuries, veterinary procedures for safety, and research should be maintained to identify emerging trends in injury rates, distribution patterns, and types of injuries. This information would be used to make short-term recommendations to horsemen, veterinarians, and track	30	While California already provides this information to The Jockey Club, federal legislation is currently being considered that would require compliance.	COMPLETE!

	management. Also, this information can be used for statistical analysis and research purposes. Sources of information would include Southern California Equine Foundation (SCEF) hospital records, Veterinary Confidential reports (Form CHRB-24), attending veterinarian medical records, trainer-logged individual health records, association veterinary records (monitoring veterinarian observations), and the CHRB Veterinarian's List.			
h	Fatality Information	(LTR)	Fatalities are to be posted weekly on the CHRB website.	COMPLETE!
31	Facilities at the racetrack should be explored for a small, paddock turn-out where horses can be outdoors and with more space.	30	Racing associations should be encouraged or required to provide such accommodations as a condition of licensing. Backstretch areas should have small turnout pens or round pens, safety stewards can work with the stable superintendents to determine this. Owners and Trainers should be encouraged to turn out their horses for a rest period to recuperate at a farm or training facility that provides paddocks, pastures, and turn-out areas for horses.	The Safety Stewards reported that only San Luis Rey has turn-out paddocks. There are space limitations that don't allow compliance at other tracks.

Regulatory Veterinary Procedures and Practices

32	Examinations closer to the completion of high-speed events (i.e., post-workout and post-race) would improve identifying horses at risk of major injury with continued training and racing	25	The CHRB has passed rule 1846.1 which creates the same medication rules for workouts as races. This rule with expanded out of competition testing (OOCT) allows greater scrutiny for regulatory post workout. The next step would be to expand and formalize post workout and race examinations. This requires funding and personnel.	COMPLETE!
33	Additional regulatory veterinary positions to improve efficiency and handle the increase in official veterinary examinations, including review of previous examination records for all horses undergoing fitness examinations. Increase the number of Veterinarians at the track for backside coverage in the morning and to monitor training (for all enclosures).	25	Budget Change Proposal (BCP) to expand oversight and personnel related to equine safety including statewide entry panel and expanded veterinary examinations. And the Chief Official Veterinarian position has been created.	COMPLETE.
i	CHRB license fees and penalty revenue earmarked for specific safety measures	(LTR)	AB 1974 was passed on December 29, 2020.	COMPLETE!
34	Track Veterinarians and Examining Veterinarians should be under the direct supervision of	25	Amend Rules 1560 and 1561, to stipulate that the racing veterinarian is under the direct supervision of the Official Veterinarian. The package was approved by OAL on December 17, 2020, and will become effective April 1, 2021.	COMPLETE!

	the Official Veterinarian or the Equine Medical Director			
35	Require compulsory diagnostic imaging for known risk factors for PSB fractures. Industry support for stratagems to increase the use of special imaging techniques.	27	Passed CHRB Rule 1866 (f) (1) -The official veterinarian may require any horse on the Veterinarian's List to undergo diagnostic procedures, including diagnostic imaging, endoscopy, and biological sample analysis as part of their veterinary examination prior to being allowed to train or race. Dr. Mathieu Spriet completed his research concerning PSB risk factors, resulting in a new CE Module called "PET Scans Knowledge Gained from 1,000 Racehorse Fetlocks" Link: https://horsemenu.mclms.net/en/package/10050/course/19308/view Research will be ongoing throughout the industry! With results of what is learned shared as Continuing Education Modules or webinars.	COMPLETE!
36	Regulatory veterinarians to have authority to order diagnostic procedures and imaging as a condition of racing or training	28	The passage of AB 1974, effective January 1, 2021, adds Section 19583.5 to the BPC Code requires. Amended CHRB Rule 1866 to allow the official veterinarian to require diagnostic imaging prior to a horse being removed from the vet's list. Effective date is July 1, 2021.	COMPLETE!

CA Horse Racing Board

37	Refine CHRB entry review panel (evaluate horse's exercise history) and expand to all CHRB racetracks. Vet Exam panel to be created to examine horse entered to race and exam any horse post-race whose performance may warrant.	8,25,27	Expand and standardize the panel to the entire state. The entry panel has the ability to require and recommend enhanced veterinary examinations. Eventually a regulation, defining the panel and giving it specific power to recommend scratches and diagnostics will be helpful.	COMPLETE!
j	Placement of High Priority Watch List Horses on the Vet's List	(LTR)	The statewide entry panel places horses on the high priority watch list, and they can be placed on the vet's list if they belong in one of the categories.	COMPLETE!
k	Vet's List Enhancement	(LTR)	Pass regulations giving regulatory Veterinarians the specific authority to condition removal from Veterinarian Lists on performance of diagnostic tests. The passage of AB 1974, effective January 1, 2021, adds Section 19583.5 to the BPC Code requires we now amend CHRB Rule 1866 to allow the official veterinarian to require diagnostic imaging prior to a horse being removed from the vet's list.	COMPLETE!
38	Create a Veterinary Investigator position focused on necropsy review program	29	CHRB regulation Rule 1846.6 Necropsy Reviews created the Review Panel and the Veterinarian Investigator position to review all necropsies.	COMPLETE!
39	The CHRB should implement its proposed measures for expanding the list of prohibited medications and practices, including but not limited to the use of bisphosphonates, extracorporeal shockwave therapy, thyroxine, and furosemide (Lasix)	23	Amended and created CHRB Rules 1843.5, 1844, 1845, 1867.1, and 1866.2 which are now all effective. New Rule 1866.4 Thyroxine Restricted - will go into effect January 1, 2022.	COMPLETE!
l	Corticosteroids	(LTR)	Amended CHRB Rule 1588 and add Rule 1866.3 to stipulate that a horse receiving a cortisone injection in a fetlock joint is unable to complete a race 30 days prior to the start of the race or 10 days before a timed workout. This became effective 10/19/2021.	COMPLETE!
m	Shockwave Therapy	(LTR)	Addition of Rule 1866.2: Shockwave Therapy Restricted.	COMPLETE!

40	Restrictions on medications that can be administered for workouts must be expanded and enforced	24	Addition of Rule 1868, Authorized Medications During Workouts.	COMPLETE!
n	Review Penalty Guidelines	(LTR)	Rule 1843.3, 1843.5, and 1844: Penalties for Medication Violation; Medication, Drugs, and Other Substances Permitted After Entry in a Race; and Authorized Medication.	COMPLETE!
o	Out of Competition Testing	(LTR)	Increase the utilization of Out of Competition Testing.	COMPLETE!
p	Modification of confidentiality requirements	(LTR)	Introduction of Senate Bill 800 (Dodd) would make public any positive test result once confirmed by an independent laboratory or waiver of a split sample. The CHRB would post the results on its website within 5 business days of the confirmation or waiver.	COMPLETE!
41	Track Veterinarian emergency procedures should be formalized, including requiring filing CHRB Form 24 reports and obtaining post-injury samples from all horses treated in on track emergency incidents	25	The Equine Medical Director has just completed the Track Veterinarian Emergency Procedures document regarding serious injuries on the track and for obtaining post-injury samples. This complies with HISA Rule 2124 Medical Director (12) Develop in writing, the Racetrack's Emergency Action Plan, which shall include readiness for medical needs of racing participants, workers, and spectators.	COMPLETE!
42	Increase research on catastrophic injuries including efficacy of special diagnostic modalities (PET Scan, MRI)	27	The study at Santa Anita on how PET scans can be utilized to predict and prevent injuries (including those that are catastrophic) is now complete. The data from the research was presented in CHRB CE Webinars for Trainers and a CE Module was created titled "PET Scans with Dr. Mathieu Spriet" Link: https://horsemenu.mclms.net/en/package/5527/course/10936/view and a CE	COMPLETE!
43	Develop controls to ensure that horses are suited for high-speed workouts and racing and training records must be examined before horses are permitted to work	28	Santa Anita has developed a system by which trainers are required to "apply" to work—the prerequisite for which is veterinary certification. Similar protocols can be considered for the entire state. The Board has just started the process to amend the following two rules: Rule 1581.1 require a horse to be examined to determine fitness 72 hours upon arriving on the grounds and amend Rule 1878 to require an exam 72 hours prior to a workout to determine fitness.	COMPLETE! Regulation Effective Date: January 1, 2022.
44	Continuing education should be required as a condition of licensing with a focus on the etiology of common veterinary syndromes of the racehorse	29	Add Rule 1503.5 to require continuing education as a condition of renewal of license for trainer and assistant trainer - requiring 12 hours of approved continuing education during the preceding 36-month period.	COMPLETE!
45	Licensing requirement for trainers and assistant trainers should be expanded and standardized nationally to include an apprenticeship or experience hours before eligibility to apply	29	Amend Rule 1503 to require that individuals hold an Assistant Trainer license in good standing for at least one year as a prerequisite for a Trainer license.	COMPLETE!
46	Rule to prohibit 'program training' and then strictly enforce	29	Amend Rule 1588 to deny eligibility to any horse that has not been in the care of a CHRB licensed trainer for at least seven consecutive days. Amend Rules 1501 and 1502 to clarify that program training is prohibited, to ensure that horses are under the care of appropriate licensees.	COMPLETE!
47	Examine the association between crop use and serious musculoskeletal injury.	29	Amended Rule 1688 to regulate the use of the riding crop to protect the safety of the horse and rider as well as enhancing penalties for violations.	COMPLETE!