



April 5, 2019

VIA EMAIL AND HAND DELIVERED

Charles Winner/CHRB Chairman, Rick Baedeker/CHRB Executive Director
Tim Ritvo/COO Racing & Gaming, The Stronach Group
Greg Avioli/TOC President and CEO, Alan Balch/CTT Executive Director

Gentlemen:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Jockeys' Guild and the jockeys who regularly ride in California, in response to the California Horse Racing Board's proposed rule limiting the use of the riding crop "only for safety for horse and rider" which was voted unanimously by CHRB on Thursday, March 28.

Pursuant to CHRB 1688, as it is currently written, jockeys are not required to carry a riding crop. As such, individual jockeys who regularly ride at Santa Anita have elected not to carry the cushioned riding crop during the entire race day card on Friday, April 12. As such, "an announcement shall be made over the public address system of such fact." Please be assured that the jockeys will do everything within their ability and power to achieve best possible placing for their horses, with the safety for the horse and rider being paramount.

We respectfully ask that each of you notify your staff and respective members, the trainers, the betting public, and all other interested parties prior to entries for the Friday, April 12 races, that the jockeys will not be carrying a riding crop.

The Jockeys' Guild and its Board of Directors have taken into consideration the tragic loss of horses since opening day at Santa Anita as well as the public's perception and want to proceed in a way that is in the best interest of racing. With that said, after considerable discussion, the Guild's Board of Directors and members strongly feel that more research and dialogue is necessary in order to fully evaluate the consequences of implementing the proposed rule which is an extreme change from the existing rule.

Therefore, upon the completion of each race, data will be gathered from input from the jockeys. Each ride will be evaluated for safety, how horses respond in passing other horses, react when going through an opening, or any other situation that may develop during the running of the race. This information will be submitted for consideration during the public comment period.

Additionally, in light of the fact that California would be the only major racing jurisdiction in the world to adopt a rule prohibiting the use of the crop for encouragement, it is imperative that further research and data collection be done to measure safety considerations, as well as the economic impact on all industry entities including the betting public, racetracks in California, owners, trainers, jockeys, breeders, including the different breeds of horses. There must also be consideration with regards to the impact on the horses' ability to achieve black type status.

Jockeys risk their lives every day and are an integral part of racing. The voice of the Jockeys' Guild and its members must be heard and included in all conversations to find the best possible outcome for all industry stakeholders. We hope we can work together, with all interested racing parties, during the rule making process to evaluate the results and agree upon a rule that will be in the best interest of racing in California.

John Velazquez
Co-Chairman
Jockeys' Guild, Inc.

Mike Smith
Co-Chairman
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Terence J. Meyocks
President and CEO
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