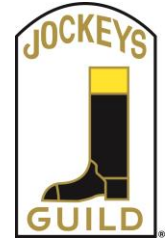


November 19, 2019

Mr. Rick Baedeker
Executive Director
California Horse Racing Board
Sent Via Email



Dear Rick,

The Jockeys' Guild, which was founded in May 1940, represents professional jockeys in American Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing and has approximately 1,270 members including active, retired and permanently disabled riders. The Guild is recognized as the voice for the jockeys with regards to matters impacting the industry, and our Board is comprised of top-level, highly regarded jockeys, many of whom are members of the Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

The Jockeys' Guild and our members are adamantly opposed to any animal abuse and any person who abuses a horse should be fully punished for such occurrences. The safety of both our equine and human athletes is paramount and of upmost importance to the Guild and all of the jockeys. It is the jockeys' lives and welfare that are also at risk when there are risks to the horses. With that being said, we believe that the use of the current riding crop is not abusive to the horse and is humane and equine friendly. Any decision about the use of the riding crop must take into consideration not only the safety of the horse and riders, but also the impact on the industry itself, including the owners, breeders, betting public, as well as the millions of individuals whose livelihoods depend on horseracing.

While we are supportive of rule changes that improve the well-being of the horse, we do not believe that it enhances the wellbeing of horses to prevent use of the riding crop for encouragement, communication, and control. The fact is, riding crops allow the jockey a measure of control over the horse that can be critical in certain racing situations. The fact that horses are herd animals cannot be disputed and most will not pass other horses without some form of encouragement

It is the opinion of the Guild, and our members that eliminating the Use of the Riding Crop, per the first CHRB proposal, except for safety purposes, will cause many more issues, including creating additional dangers. For example, jockeys will likely use the reins as a form of encouragement, potentially throwing away the horse's head, which could cause lack of control of the horse. Another danger from a prohibition on the use of the riding crop can arise when there is an opening to move or advance position. If the jockey does not have the use of the riding crop as a form of encouragement, the hole could potentially close. Such occurrences could be dangerous, and even catastrophic.

Unlike other equestrians, jockeys are limited in the aids that they have to maintain control of and communicate with the horse. Most equestrians have the natural aids of the leg, hand, seat, and voice, along with the artificial aids of the spurs and/or riding crops. Jockeys are limited in that they have their hands, voice, and to a limited extent, their legs. As a result of the riding position

of jockeys, they do not have their seat. To eliminate the use of the riding crop would further reduce their ability to communicate with their mount. It must be recognized that horses are animals and every one of them is different. While jockeys are not required to use the riding crop, some horses actually respond in a positive fashion when it is used to keep their focus. Others may shy away and not respond at all. Jockeys should be afforded their discretion based on their mount, so long as it is being used in a professional and regulated manner.

The Guild is also concerned that enforcement of the rule of the elimination of the Use of the Riding Crop except for safety purposes, as under the first proposal, will be subjective. Professional jockeys are often, although not always, able to anticipate the next move of a horse before it happens. For example, if the horse is going to duck out or lug in, a few steps before it happens, even though most people, including the Stewards, cannot see it until it happens. The jockeys will use the riding crop to prevent something from occurring. There will be many occasions when the Stewards will not be able to determine when the riding crop is used for safety as opposed to encouragement. The adoption of the proposed rule will lead to more fines and/or suspensions of jockeys, as well as disqualification of horses.

The current CHRB rule concerning Use of the Riding Crop is one of the most stringent in the country, in that it only allows the rider to use the riding crop no more than three times in succession, giving the horse a chance to respond before using the riding crop again. Furthermore, the existing CHRB rule states that a rider is prohibited from using the riding crop on a horse “when the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing” or “persistently even though the horse is showing no response under the riding crop.” When the current rule was adopted, it was based on considerable input from the Jockeys’ Guild and Hall of Fame California riders of what was realistic and feasible. Since the adoption of the existing rule, although the CHRB has not officially produced such report, we have been advised that there has been an improvement in the colonies overall as far as riding, including both the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horses jockeys. With that said, we would recognize that riders need to be better informed and advised of the concerns about continuing to use the riding crop when a horse is clearly out of contention or has reached its maximum placing. However, they must also be assured that they will not be punished for “failing to persevere” if they are not continuing to use the riding crop.

In 2008, we, as an industry, came together to determine what could be done to improve the riding crop, as well as the public perception of the use of the riding crop. Modifications were made to the “popper”, as agreed upon by The Jockey Club, ARCI, and the Jockeys’ Guild, and the specifications were adopted as a Model Rule (See ARCI-010-035-A). When the approved riding crops, which are softer and more humane, as outlined in the Model Rule, are used, veterinarians say cuts and welts are significantly reduced.

The Jockeys’ Guild supports the current ARCI model rules regarding riding crop specifications and expects jockeys to only use the riding crop for safety, correction and encouragement. The current rule requires the use of the “pro-cush,” “lite-touch,” and other riding crops that meet the specifications as outlined in the Model Rule. The regulators must be inspecting to assure that the proper riding crops are being used. Furthermore, we believe that jockeys at ALL of the racetracks need to be instructed about the importance of using the approved, humane riding crop, as well as the proper use of the riding crop. Additionally, the Guild is supportive of any new

advancements or improvements that can be made to the existing riding crop, creating an even more humane crop. One such possibility would be a modification to the popper, eliminating the edges, as well as possibly improving the shock absorbing material that is being used.

One area that the existing CHRB regulation lacks in comparison to the ARCI Model Rule is with regards to after the race, horses shall be subject to inspection by a racing or official veterinarian, looking for cuts, welts, or bruises in the skin. Any adverse finding shall be reported to the Stewards. While we have been advised that this is happening, we do not have any way to confirm or deny if that is the case. Furthermore, by adopting it into the regulation, the Stewards would have records, or lack thereof, to provide to the public that the horses are being looked after and cared for, as well as providing further evidence that the current riding crops are humane and equine friendly.

With regards to the Use of the Riding Crop, we are aware of what is being said about the public perception. Unfortunately, we, as the Industry, have failed to educate and inform the public with regards to the changes that have been made for the health and safety of the horse, including the riding crops that are being used and use of the riding crop. There are many, even within our industry, who still refer to it as a “whip” as opposed to a riding crop. We have not taken the initiative to educate the public about the changes that have been made to the popper and the steps that are taken to assure that horses are being treated humanely and with the upmost care.

The second proposal, in which jockeys are only allowed to show the crop to the horse, or use it to tap the horse on the shoulder “with the crop in the down position while having both hands physically on the reins and neck of the horse,” is, with all due respect, greatly flawed and against logic. It appears that this proposal was not fully vetted by those with experience with racehorses.

The Jockeys’ Guild has significant concerns of the rule making process for both proposals. Did either proposal go through the CHRB Safety Committee? We would respectfully request that any changes made be based on input from the Guild and respected Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse riders.

In closing, it is of our opinion and belief that while the use of the riding crop can be regulated, the elimination of it, except for safety purposes, is not in the best interest of the safety and welfare of both the horse and jockey, as well as racing in general. Jockeys must still be allowed to use the riding crop as a form of encouragement, especially in light of the fact that horses are herd animals. Furthermore, the elimination of the riding crop for encouragement will be detrimental to our industry stakeholders as a whole, including the owners, betting public, horsemen, breeders, and the millions of people who rely on the industry for their livelihood.

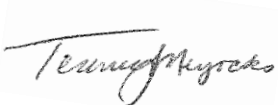
It is the opinion of the Guild that the current CHRB rule provides for adequate regulation of the Use of the Riding Crop, and so far as it is enforced in a fair and reasonable manner, it is logical method to assure for the protection and welfare of the horse, while still allowing the riders to use the riding crop when necessary. We must work together to facilitate the proper use of the riding crop to decrease the instances that have given rise to concern. Through communication between the Stewards and the experienced jockeys in the colony, we can work to have open lines of communication with the younger riders and allow for some self-monitoring within the room. As

stated before, in the event of an obviously abusive situation, the individual should be fully punished.

The ultimate goal is to establish a standard that is in the best interest of the welfare of the horse, as well as the industry as a whole, including the betting public. We would respectfully request that any changes to the existing regulation be made after consideration and input from those who are actually in contact with the horses. The Guild believes that, we as the industry, including our members, the horsemen, racetracks, owners, and the regulators, must reach a mutually agreed upon regulation with regards to the use of the riding crop, that will be safe and humane to the horse, while still allowing the riders to use it in a way that is necessary for encouragement and correction, if needed. It is absolutely essential to create a standard of uniformity for the Use of the Riding Crop that all jurisdictions can adopt.

It would be our hope that establishing such a rule, would lead to universal riding crop usage. Such uniformity would be in the best interest of the horses, enhance the perception of our industry, and still provide for fairness to the owners, betting public, horsemen, and the jockeys.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terence J. Meyocks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terence J. Meyocks
President and CEO

cc: CHRB Commissioners
Mike Rogers – Stronach Group
Greg Avioli – TOC
Alan Balch – CTT
John Velazquez
Mike Smith
Darrell Haire
Mindy Coleman
Shane Gusman