

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
ILLINOIS RACING BOARD
OCTOBER 14, 2008
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

On Tuesday, October 14, 2008, a Regular Meeting of the Illinois Racing Board (“Board”) was held at 9:00 a.m. in room 040 on the 9th floor of the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois. The following Board members were present: Chairman Joseph Sinopoli, Commissioners Joseph Casciato, Jack Chamblin, Angelo Ciambrone, William Farley, Jr., Jon Metcalf, Paul Smith and Robert Winchester. Staff members Marc Laino, Shelley Kalita, Bob Lang and Mickey Ezzo were also present. Commissioners Bookshester and Martin were absent.

Chairman Sinopoli called the meeting to order.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Owen Rainwater, a thoroughbred owner, appealed the disqualification of his horse “Island Miss” in the 6th race at Hawthorne Race Course on April 13, 2008. “Island Miss” finished 1st was disqualified and placed last for causing interference in the first turn. The stewards concluded that “Island Miss” the #4 horse, bothered the #7 horse setting off a chain reaction affecting the #6 and #3 horses.

Commissioner Metcalf stated he watched the film of the race numerous times and concluded that “Island Miss” did not commit any infraction and the interference was the result of the #6 horse crowding the #3 horse against the rail. Commissioner Metcalf moved that the disqualification of “Island Miss” be overturned and the original of order of finish for the 6th race at Hawthorne Race Course on April 13, 2008 be restored with “Island Miss” finishing in 1st place. Commissioner Chamblin seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

ORGANIZATION LICENSEE REQUEST

Balmoral Racing Club, Inc. requested approval of Denis Micnerski as Director of Security. Mr. Micnerski appeared before the Board to answer questions pertaining to his resume. Chairman Sinopoli moved that Denis Micnerski be approved as the Director of Security at Balmoral Park. Commissioner Casciato seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote. Commissioner Casciato exited the meeting.

BOARD ITEMS

Rulemaking Part 453 – Executive Director Laino stated that the proposed rules authorize problem gamblers to voluntarily request that their names be placed on a list of self-excluded persons to be maintained by the Board. Once a person is included on the self-exclusion list, that individual would be prohibited from wagering on horse races and appearing at Illinois racetracks and off-track wagering facilities under the jurisdiction of the Board. Several commissioners voiced concern about the implementation and effectiveness of the proposed rules. Tim Carey, President, Hawthorne Racecourse and Roy Arnold, President, Arlington Park answered questions pertaining to the proposed rules and both testified that some measures are currently in place to deal with problem gamblers.

Commissioner Chamblin moved to initiate the rulemaking process with a revision to include a waiver of liability. Commissioner Farley seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 3. Commissioners Ciambrone, Metcalf and Smith were opposed to the motion.

Rulemaking Section 1415.290 – Executive Director Laino stated that the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) adopted a model rule banning toe grabs with a height no greater than 2 millimeters and the elimination of any traction devices worn on the front shoes of thoroughbred horses. TOBA's American Graded Stakes Committee now requires toe grab restrictions as a condition for grade eligibility beginning in 2009. Scientific evidence and studies suggest that there is a direct link between front toe grabs and equine injuries.

Commissioner Ciambrone moved to initiate the rulemaking process. Commissioner Winchester seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

Rulemaking Section 508.50 – General Counsel Kalita stated that Part 508 in its current form permits random urine testing and individualized testing for jockeys, drivers, starters, assistant starters and outriders. The constitutionality of Part 508 was upheld by the Seventh Circuit Court in 1991. The proposed amendments extend testing to all other licensees on the backstretch when there is probable cause to suspect the licensee has purchased, sold or used illegal substances on the backstretch. The Board is concerned with evidence of increased illegal drug sales and use on the backstretch and other areas of the racetrack. These amendments update the rule to bring it into compliance with current federal drug testing procedures and policies.

Chairman Sinopoli moved to initiate the rulemaking process. Commissioner Metcalf seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Ciambrone expressed his concern over the adversarial nature of the most recent Dates Hearing. He recommended that in the future, a positive image should be projected.

Commissioner Ciambrone moved that the Board adopt a resolution honoring the accomplishments of recently retired Hall of Fame jockey, Earlie Fires. Chairman Sinopoli seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor of adopting the resolution.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Sinopoli moved that the Board approve the minutes of its regular meetings on July 8, 2008 and September 15, 2008. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor of approving the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Chamblin motioned for adjournment and Commissioner Winchester seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Laino
Executive Director