

Inclement Weather Policy

Policy Statement:

The California Horseracing industry recognizes that inclement weather may temporarily prevent the normal operations of the racetrack and that coordinated decision making promotes the health and safety of all participants, including the equine athletes and riders.

In anticipation of inclement weather events, the following policy and protocols will drive the decision-making process to either delay or cancel racing and training. The concern for the equine athletes, riders and all other participants' safety serves as the main driver when these decisions are made, and decisions should always strive to err on the side of caution. Each weather incident is unique, and each will demand individual attention and analysis.

Purpose:

The Purpose of this policy is to:

- Assign responsibility in evaluating inclement weather events;
- Assign responsibility in determining postponement and cancellations of racing and training;
- Clarify the responsibilities and expectations of the stakeholders in an inclement weather event;
- Clearly outline communication protocol around decisions of postponement and/or cancellations resulting from inclement weather;
- Outline protocols to be followed after an inclement weather event;
- Help define what constitutes an "unsafe" track for training or racing;
- Be consistent with the Association of Racing Commissioners International – Model Rules: **ARCI-007-025 (G)** and **ARCI-007-020(M)**.

Scope:

This policy applies to all race tracks and training centers operated by "The Stronach Group" which are operating under CHRB rules and regulations. Note: certain portions of this policy will not be applicable to Golden Gate Fields' synthetic racing surface.

Date of Effect:

This policy shall take effect starting December 26th, 2019 and may be repealed or amended from time to time with the approval of the CHRB.

Track Superintendent:

The Racing Association must notify the CHRB of any change to the Track Superintendent position prior to making the change.

Racing Surface Maintenance Data Collection:

The Racing association shall collect data and maintain electronic records to assist in the consistent maintenance of all racing surfaces. These data collection protocols shall include:

- **Watering and Moisture Content control:** Electronically document all watering and irrigation on main and turf tracks. Include details on the time of application, method of application, amount of water added (gallons) and area of the racing surface to which the water was applied. For water trucks, also direction of equipment. Quality control measurements of the moisture content should be checked daily to ensure consistency in the moisture content around a dirt or turf track. This should be measured, typically at least weekly, using a device such as the time domain reflectometry or other similar measurement methods.
- **Harrowing:** document the number of rounds and direction with the motor grader, cutting harrows, and conditioning harrows. Record the depth of the cutting harrows and conditioning harrows.
- **Material additions:** Document the source, timing, quantity and method of all additions to the surfaces including sand, silt, clay, organic material, or chemicals (e.g. acids) for dirt tracks; and top dressing, fertilizer, pesticides, fungicides, seeding and sod replacement for turf tracks.
- **Turf Track:** Electronically document the turf grass species, areas of re-sodding, and cut lengths.
- **Cushion depth:** Perform periodic, typically at least once per day during racing, cushion depth measurements by using a hand probe over the surface of the track. Depth of cushion should also be verified before and after any large movement of material from either grading or washouts. Data should be stored electronically to allow tracking of results over time to ensure that track grades do not get out of tolerance ranges prior to grading.
- **Material composition:** Perform testing of track material composition at least monthly per race meet. Each sample should be analyzed separately and not mixed with other samples. Composition should include at least the following tests:
 - **Turf Track:** Soil chemistry panel including soil pH, organic carbon, major nutrients (e.g. phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulfur) and soluble salts to ensure that reviews of maintenance processes can be performed, all protocols for surface preparation, maintenance and quality control measures will be documented electronically outlining procedures and schedules for all of the items above. These electronic records shall be made available for review.
 - **Dirt tracks:** sieve and hydrometer data for all samples; and organic, soil chemistry, X-ray diffraction, bulk density and salinity measurements for a single representative sample.
- **Surveying:** For dirt and synthetic tracks the method used and measurements obtained should be documented to ensure that the cross-fall in the straights and transitions from the straights to the turns are consistent and within specification. A track survey should be performed at least once per year with the track referenced to survey markers, laser checks or GPS mapping. Grades should be documented for internal reference.

Incident Weather Events:

Severe or harsh weather environmental conditions that may include, without limitation:

1. Extreme Temperatures;
2. High Winds;
3. Lightning;
4. Precipitation.

1. EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Symptoms of heat stress in Thoroughbreds:

- Rapid shallow breathing (i.e. panting);
- Very high body temperature;
- Flared nostrils;
- A congestion appearance of the gums;
- Staggering or weakened gait;
- Abnormal, irrational behavior;
- In extreme circumstances – collapse.

Circumstances contributing to Heat Stress:

The susceptibility of a horse to heat stress may not solely be influenced by temperature or the prevailing conditions. Certain other factors may adversely affect an individual horse's ability to withstand racing in hot conditions.

These include:

- A horse traveling long distances prior to or on the same day as the race;
- The temperament of the horse;
- Younger horses less acclimatized to heat;
- Heavy sweating;
- Withholding drinking water on the day of race.

Requirements of Racetrack/Safety Steward:

It shall be the responsibility of the Track Superintendent/Safety Steward on any race day to:

- Obtain and monitor the forecast conditions for the race day;
- Initiate the Extreme Temperature Weather Policy when necessary, and ensure the provisions are appropriately observed, where applicable;
- Communicate with race track personnel regarding requirements;
- During the race day monitor the air temperature provided by commercial weather service (e.g. Universal Weather Service);
- Throughout the race day communicate and take advice from the Official Veterinarian regarding current conditions and the condition of any horse;
- Consider whether modifying the racing program may provide improved conditions; and
- Minimize the time horses are required to be in post parade.

Modification to the race day program may include advancement or delay in the races if it appears possible the extreme conditions might ease or can be avoided.

In the event a trainer is concerned with their horse coping with the current conditions and requests to be withdrawn from the race, the stewards shall consider all request on merit and the stewards may seek the opinion of the Official Veterinarian before adjudicating any request.

Postponement and Cancellation:

In the event of a forecasted extreme temperature as defined below the decision to cancel racing shall be made by General Manager of the Association and confirmed by the Board of Stewards by applying the Extreme Temperature Standard and Policy.

Notification of cancelation shall be communicated to the following:

- Jockey’s Guild Representative;
- Board of Stewards;
- TOC and CTT

EXTREME TEMPERATURE: any temperature which falls within **Policy Level 1** or **Policy Level 2** below:

FORECASTED EXTREME TEMPERATURE: the temperature based on forecasted information provided by a commercial weather service (e.g. Universal Weather Service) at 5 hours to post-time.

	POLICY LEVEL 1	POLICY LEVEL 2
Forecasted Temperature Range	92° F to 104.9° F	Equal to or greater than 105° F
Weather Related Scratches Permitted	Yes	N/A
Additional Measures	<p>The Following additional measures must be put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 additional Veterinarian be provided; • 1 additional registered vet tech to monitor temperature, pulse and respiration rate of equine athletes pre-race and post-race; • Ice available in numerous locations; • Access to water at all times; • Racing officials to minimize post parade times; • 4 cooling blankets available. • Provide additional hosing stations and water buckets in 	Racing shall not be conducted at temperatures that exceed 105° F

	paddock and finish line area; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Veterinarian will scrutinize all horses presented in paddock, starting gate, and post-race unsaddling area 	
Cancellation Recommended	Yes, unless additional measures (above) are put into place	Yes

NOTE: No horse shall leave the track without the approval of the Official Veterinarian.

Post-Race Attention:

All Trainers shall ensure that post-race, horses are cooled down promptly and adequately. Trainers should be alerted that unless appropriate care is provided, a horse’s core temperature may continue to RISE for up to 20 minutes post-race.

2. HIGH WINDS

This procedure outlines the various steps that will be taken to safeguard riders and equine athletes and minimize risk in the event of high winds across the race track. Training and Racing restrictions may be implemented during high winds to protect the riders and equine athletes’ safety.

Wind speed and direction will be regularly monitored by the Track Superintendent or his staff and recorded on a daily basis.

Equipment:

The racetrack shall install an **anemometer** near the racing surface at the approximate height of the rider.

Wind speed threshold:

- **Sustained 38 mile per hour and/or gusts over 50 miles per hour** – Race Track management will temporarily suspend Racing and Training.
- A warning about the potential need to cancel will be communicated by the racetrack management to the following:
 - Jockey’s Guild representative;
 - Board of Stewards;
 - TOC and CTT.
- The final decision to cancel will be made by the General Manger of the Association and confirmed by the Board of Stewards and communicated to same parties above.

3. LIGHTNING

The following protocols for lightning are consistent with the Association of Racing Commissioners International model rule **ARCI-007-020**.

The racing association shall install a real-time lightning detector and warning system that has been independently and objectively verified and subscribe to a commercial weather service (e.g. Universal Weather Service) that provide lightning detection services.

The detection service must include strike distance and radius notifications in order to provide lightning delay decision-making.

The lightning detection information shall be monitored by the Track Superintendent, or his staff during training and racing hours. This information will also be available to race track management and stewards at all times.

Suspension of Racing and Training:

When lightning is detected within an **8 mile radius of the racetrack** the following actions will take place:

- Track Superintendent shall notify racetrack management immediately;
- Racetrack management will suspended racing and training;
- Racetrack Management will notify the Board of Stewards and Jockey's Guild representative;
- Alert all participants to seek shelter;
- Track Superintendent will be responsible for enforcing training delay.

Resume Activity:

Racing and training activates may resume 30 minutes after the last lighting strike within an 8 mile radius of the racetrack as indicated by the lightning detection service.

4. PRECIPITATION

The following protocols will assist with the decision-making process to either suspend or cancel racing until the track is deemed safe after an extreme precipitation event. The first priority of all decisions made shall be the well-being and safety of the equine athletes and riders.

These protocols are consistent with Association of Racing Commissioners International model rule **ARCI-007-025(G)**.

Weather Monitoring:

The Racing association shall subscribe to a commercial weather service (e.g. Universal Weather Service) and install a professional weather station that will provide the following information:

- Temperature;
- Relative Humidity;
- Rainfall amount;
- Wind Speed;
- Wind Direction;
- Barometric Pressure;
- Solar Radiation.

Weather Data Collection:

All weather data shall be maintained on a daily basis by the Track Superintendent and recorded in electronic format that shall be made available to racetrack management and Board of Stewards. Any

precipitation event during racing and training will require the rainfall data to be logged in 15-minute increments.

Dirt Track:

Sealed or Floated Track: is a track surface that has been smoothed and compacted utilizing specialized equipment. A sealed dry track allows water to run off the track, reducing the amount of precipitation absorbed. Wet tracks are sealed to provide a safe and even racing surface. Periodically, a “float”, which is a lighter slab of metal, will be pulled over the track to squeeze off surface water.

When precipitation is forecasted the Track Superintendent will analyze the following:

- Total amount of rainfall;
- Duration of rainfall;
- Predicted timing relative to training or racing.

Based on data received, the Track Superintendent will make a determination if track needs to be sealed and or floated. When the track is sealed horses will **NOT** be permitted to train on the surface utilized for racing under any circumstances with notice given to the following:

- Jockey’s Guild;
- TOC;
- CTT;

Any decision to race on a sealed or floated track will be made based upon a written certification by the Track Superintendent that in his or her professional opinion the resulting track surface is safe for the conduct of races. That certification shall also provide that the conduct of racing will not jeopardize the safe conduct of racing or training on days subsequent to the inclement weather event. The certification will require the unanimous consent of a committee consisting of the Track Superintendent, Association General Manager, Jockeys Guild Representative, and Safety Steward subject to confirmation by the Board of Stewards. Notice of that decision will be provided to the following:

- Jockeys Guild;
- TOC;
- CTT.

When the rain event has ended the Track Superintendent will determine the optimal time to harrow the track using the float rake or conditioning harrows. Once the track is harrowed after being sealed, no horses will be permitted to engage in high speed workouts over the harrowed track for at least 24 hours unless approved by the Track Superintendent. In any event, high speed workouts may resume only when approved by the Track Superintendent.

No Racing or Training shall be permitted on any surface deemed unsafe by the Track Superintendent or Board of Stewards.

Turf Track:

When deciding to take racing off the turf the safety of the equine athletes and rider must be the driving factor.

During a rain event the Turf Track Supervisor will continually monitor turf course to determine the amount of moisture in the track by using the following methods:

- Visual inspections;
- Walking the course;
- Using a GoingStick or probe.

If the Turf Track Supervisor determines there is too much moisture in the track and could be unsafe he will notify the General Manger immediately. The decision to take races off or leave races on the turf shall be made by the General Manager of the association subject to confirmation by the Board of Stewards. Notification shall be made to the following:

- Jockey's Guild;
- TOC;
- CTT.