



# Live Racing Committee





# TOC Agreement Submission Background:

- A signed TOC agreement is a required part of the CHRB license application.
- In March, the CHRB Board approved this calendar:

RACE DAYS	
Alameda County Fair	13 June 12 - July 9
California State Fair	9 July 10-30
Sonoma County Fair	9 July 31-Aug. 20
Humboldt County Fair	8 Aug. 21-Sept. 17
Big Fresno Fair	11 Sept. 18-Oct. 15
<b>GOLDEN STATE RACING</b>	<b>26</b>



- The agreement CARF submitted to TOC included:
  - Dates schedule (approved by CHRB)
  - Overnight purses (reduced 8.5% per GGF 2024 actuals)
  - Stakes schedule
  - Purse generation projections (overpaid/underpaid)
- Basically, reducing overnight purses and stakes, along with HCF running unoverlapped and having a dark week, we were able to submit a projection which would allow us to potentially break even on purses.



## ***TOC Agreement Review Timeline:***

- TOC reviewed the CARF submission packet and called a meeting of the Northern TOC Racing Committee.
- CARF met with the Northern TOC Racing Committee in late April and an agreement was reached. That e-mail correspondence has been circulated.
- The agreement from the resulting meeting included:
  - Approval for the dates schedule and purse schedule as submitted.
  - Reduce the HCF Marathon stakes race from \$75,000 to \$50,000
  - Increase the Everett Nevin stakes race at Pleasanton from \$50,000 to \$75,000
  - Compensate the horsemen shipping to Fresno for the first two weeks of the four week meet.
- In 25 years of TOC negotiations, an agreement reached between CARF and the Northern TOC Racing Committee results in a done deal.



## ***TOC Board Backtracks:***

- Approximately one week later, Bill Nader (CEO, TOC) called and stated that the TOC Board did not agree with the initial decision. This is unprecedented.

## ***TOC Board Background, GGF:***

- In January, members of the Northern TOC Racing Committee resigned in protest of a 25% purse cut that was approved by the TOC Board, but not supported by the Northern representatives.
- These three members were replaced on the TOC Board by new members, one of which is John Harris. John did not participate in the Northern TOC Racing Committee meeting with CARF.
- At the request of the three former TOC members that resigned, and other Northern California Horsemen, CARF formed the Northern California Advisory Committee of Horsemen (which the CARF Board formally recognized in April). This group truly represents the Northern California interests and supports the package CARF presented to the TOC.





## ***Fallout from TOC Backtrack:***

- TOC is now requesting:
  - Shorten HCF to two weeks
  - Run 5 weeks at Fresno, 3 days a week (not 2 as proposed)
- This proposal is being recommended from southern interests and would add a projected \$250,000 to the fair overpayment
- A meeting was held May 1 with Bill Nader, Ty Green, Justin Oldfield and CARF to discuss options for a compromise. The focus of the meetings was to solicit a letter of support for the 2024 Fall/Winter GSR meet and the 2025 racing dates. Additional language would allow CARF to reduce purses if the handle didn't support our original schedule.
- The intent here was to solidify TOC support for the GSR and Fair race meets in 2025 but also have the flexibility to adjust purses to ensure no major overpayment occurs.



## ***Fair Concerns:***

- After speaking with representatives from HCF and Fresno, financial commitments have already been made.
- CHRB Board members feel changing dates is not acceptable.
- Bill Nader was informed that CARF does not accept the new proposal.
- Nader's response was that TOC will not grant an agreement for any of the CARF fairs, thereby rendering their CHRB license applications incomplete.

## ***CARF Staff Conclusions:***

1. TOC does not have the support of Northern California horsemen
2. The position of TOC is biased toward Southern California
3. The TOC recommended changes will increase the purse overpayment (despite TOC being presented with a balanced purse budget from CARF)
4. CHRB has already approved the 2024 fair dates.



## ***Staff Recommendations:***

1. Move forward without any further negotiations and discuss the matter in open forum at the CHRB Board Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>
2. Present to the CHRB Board that no agreement was reached and we ask we gain approval by operating on the previous 2023 TOC agreement. I know we can do this on Emerging Breed Agreements but I would ask Louie and Ann to confirm we can do it with the TOC.
3. Reopen negotiations with TOC based on previous discussions where in return for date changes we receive approvals for the 2024 Golden State License and the dates for 2025. Also be given total authority to reduce purses when we want to balance purse overpayments.