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## **Non-claiming rule takes effect in Calif. on Saturday**

Beginning Saturday, horses in California returning from layoffs of at least six months can be entered one time in claiming races in which they will be ineligible to be claimed in an effort to encourage owners to give horses time off.

The rule, originally proposed by the Thoroughbred Owners of California, states that to be eligible for the non-claiming option, a horse must be entered at a claiming level equal to or greater than the price for which it last started and must be coming off a layoff of at least 180 days.

The California Horse Racing Board conducted a public hearing on the rule and adopted it in May. The rule then passed review by the state's Office of Administrative Law and will take effect on Saturday.

"We're trying to find a way to give the owner an incentive to put a horse out for some 'R&R,'" CHRBR Chairman Richard Shapiro said. "The owner's made an investment in rehabilitating the horse and he doesn't want to see that first time back he loses the horse and the investment."

Horses entered for the non-claiming option will be identified in the official program. Equibase also will begin identifying horses running for this condition in their past-performance lines beginning next month.

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