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ILLINOIS RACING BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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ILLINOIS RACING BOARD ADOPTS ARCI MODEL RULE ON TOE GRABS

CHICAGO, IL - - Effective March 1, 2009, Illinois joined several states in the banning of toe grabs and all other traction devices on the front shoes of thoroughbred horses while racing or training. The actual rule states the following: "Shoes (racing plates) that have toe grabs with a height greater than 2 millimeters (0.15748 inches) and bends, jar caulks, stickers and any other traction devices shall be prohibited on the front shoes of thoroughbred horses while racing or training on all racing surfaces." A toe grab increases traction but scientific evidence shows a significant increase in the risk of front-leg injuries when toe grabs are used.

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