

Improving protective vests for exercise riders and jockeys

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Racing Industry and Best
Practices

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Risky Business.....



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Injuries to Jockeys and Exercise Riders



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Injuries to exercise riders and jockeys

- Falls from horses accounted for 24 % of total injuries during 2003-2006. Over \$ 4.2 Million dollars has been incurred for workers compensation claims.
- Exercise riders and jockeys accounted for 72% of the total number of falls from horseback. These occurred during training and live racing.
- The highest percentage of falls from horses were at the racetracks located in Southern CA.

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Injuries by body part

- Injuries to the upper trunk and extremities are the most common, including chest, shoulder and spine.
- Secondary body parts include: leg, arm and ankles.

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Developing a solution-

part 1

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- A series of meetings with jockeys and exercise riders were conducted beginning in April 2006 at the racetracks in CA.
 - The objective of the meetings was to increase awareness and educate the users regarding limitations, proper fit and care of protective vests and helmets. Utilized expertise from a major manufacturer of protective helmets and vests.
 - Critical feedback was obtained from the exercise riders and jockeys regarding characteristics of current protective equipment and suggestions for making improvements to increase functionality of the equipment.

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Developing a solution-part 2

- Based upon feedback from the users and review of current standards for protective vests it was determined that the current standards are not specific to the needs of exercise riders and jockeys.
- The construction and materials used in the current protective vests, do not provide a high degree of flexibility in terms of jockey's being able to tuck and roll when falling off a horse.

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Interested Groups

- **California Horsemen's Safety Alliance (CHSA)**
- **Jockeys' Guild (U.S. and Canada)**
- **American International Group (AIG)**
- **Phoenix Performance Products, Inc.**
- **Charles Owens**
- **Dynamic Research, Inc.**
- **California Horse Racing Board**

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History of protective vest standards

- British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) 1997. Seven levels of protection. BETA level 5 required in California and many other States.
- BETA 2000- Three levels of protection. Level one is recommended for jockeys.
- SATRA Jockey vest standard
- Australian Harness racing Association (AHRA)
- American Standards and Testing Materials (ASTM) F1937-2004
- These standards are “generic” and apply to all equine sports.

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Summary

- A team comprised of jockeys, vest manufacturer, horse racing industry, research scientist and insurance safety consultant are now working as part of the ASTM committee for Protective Body Padding F08.55.
- The objective is to develop a consensus draft standard which is specific to the requirements and needs of jockeys. An ASTM task group will be assembled comprised of jockeys, equipment manufacturers, researchers and scientists. This will be submitted for approval to the ASTM.

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