



New Mexico Racing Commission  
4900 Alameda NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2023-SUN-65  
Track Sunland Park  
Ruling Date: 3/24/2023

Licensee: VEGA, RAUL VELARDE

License Type: 2022 3 Year Trainer      Applicant Id: 9954  
License Number: 305797

Ruling # 2023-SUN-65

Action Type: Final Outcome

Ruling:

RE: 2023-SUN-65 - Ruling Final Outcome  
Disciplinary Hearing 05/12/2023

Trainer Raul Vega, (currently under summary suspension) having been duly notified and appeared before the Board of Stewards on May 12, 2023, for the condition of his horse entered in an official race at Sunland Park Racetrack. The Horse "Cause for Love Too" appeared in the paddock on March 21st, 2023, for the 2nd race with open wounds, signs of being under weight, and unfit to run per the track veterinarian. The horse was scratched by the track Vet Mike Perrone due to the condition of the horse.

For this violation, the Board of Stewards hereby issues a penalty as follows:

1. A suspension of minimum of 5 years (March 24, 2023, thru March 24, 2028), on or after that time, Mr. Vega will be eligible to reapply for his Trainer License
2. Mr. Vega must go before the Commission for approval to be reinstated
3. Must retake the NMRC Trainers Test and Pass before being reinstated
4. A \$10,000 Fine which must be paid on or before June 11, 2023.

During said time of applicable suspension Raul Vega is hereby excluded from all areas of the grounds under the jurisdiction of the NMRC 15.2.1.9 (C) (21) (a-b) Exclusion.

Licensee is found in violation of and this ruling is written in accordance with:

15.2.6.11 TRAINER RESPONSIBILITY: The purpose of this subsection is to identify responsibilities of the trainer that pertain specifically to the health and wellbeing of horses in their care. A. The trainer is responsible for the condition of horses entered in an official workout or race and is responsible for the presence of any prohibited drug, medication or other substance, including permitted medication in excess of the maximum allowable level, in such horses. A positive test for a prohibited drug, medication or substance, including permitted medication in excess of the maximum allowable level, as reported by a commission approved laboratory, is prima facie evidence of a violation of this rule. In the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, the trainer is responsible. E. Additionally, with respect to horses in their care or custody, the trainer is responsible for: (1) the proper identity, custody, care, health, condition and safety of horses; 16.47.1.8

GENERAL PROVISIONS: L. Grounds for disciplinary measures for a licensee, and refusal, denial, suspension, or revocation of a license: (o) has engaged in conduct unbecoming or detrimental to the best interests of racing.

U. Protection of horses: (2) licensee or other person under the jurisdiction of the commission shall subject or permit any animal under their control, custody or supervision to be subjected to or to incur any form of cruelty, mistreatment, neglect or abuse or abandon, injure, maim or kill or administer any noxious substance to or deprive any animal of necessary care or sustenance, shelter or veterinary care. 16.47.1.10 TRAINERS: B.

Absolute insurer: (1) The trainer is the absolute insurer of the condition of horses entered in an official



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workout or race and is responsible for the presence of any prohibited drug or medication, or other prohibited substance in such horses. A positive test for a prohibited drug or medication or other prohibited substance or the presence of permitted medication in excess of maximum allowable levels as reported by a commission-approved laboratory is prima facie evidence of a violation of this rule. The trainer is absolutely responsible regardless of the acts of third parties.

Stewards Disciplinary Action 16.47.1.8 (L)(1)(i) - Conduct Which states in pertinent part "The Commission may refuse to issue a license to an applicant, or may suspend or revoke a license issued, or order disciplinary measures if the applicant is a person whose conduct or reputation may reflect on the honesty, and integrity of horse racing"

15.2.3.8 B (3)(A) Stewards Disciplinary Action stewards shall take notice of alleged misconduct or rule violations and initiate investigations into the matters. The stewards shall have authority to charge any licensee for a violation of these rules, to conduct hearings and to impose disciplinary action in accordance with these rules.

16.47.18 (U) 2 Protection of horses No licensee or other person under the jurisdiction of the commission shall subject or permit any animal under their control, custody or supervision to be subjected to or to incur any form of cruelty, mistreatment, neglect or abuse or abandon, injure, maim or kill or administer any noxious substance to or deprive any animal of necessary care or sustenance, shelter or veterinary care.

15.2.2.8(V)(1) EJECTION AND EXCLUSION An association shall immediately eject from the association grounds a person who is subject to such an exclusion order of the commission or stewards and notify the commission of the ejection. 15.2.2.8(V) (2) EJECTION AND EXCLUSION An association may eject or exclude a person for any lawful reason. An association shall immediately notify the stewards and the commission in writing of any person ejected or excluded by the association and the reasons for the ejection or exclusion.

16.47.1.8. T. KNOWLEDGE OF RULES: 16.47.1.3 Statutory Authority 16.47.1.8 (A) (1) License Required 16.47.1.8 (A) (2) License Required 16.47.1.8(N) Last Known Address

15.2.1.9(B)(9)(b): Appeal Procedures Which states in pertinent part that "An appeal under this section must be filed not later than 10 days after the date of the ruling. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period is extended to include the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. The appeal must be received by noon, at the main commission offices or with the stewards who issued the ruling and must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$400. Last day for appeal: March 22, 2023

By Order of The Sunland Park Stewards