NEW MEXICO RACING COMMISSION

New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #:	2025-ZIA-1
Track	Zia Park
Ruling Date:	11/1/2025

Licensee: JOINER, MICHAEL WAYNE

License Type: 2023 3 Year Trainer

Applicant Id: 12366

License Number: 308210

Ruling # 2025-ZIA-1

Action Type: Case Continued

Ruling:

RE: 2025-ZIA-1 - Case Continued

Trainer Michael Joiner, having been properly noticed, appeared with attorney Billy R. Blackburn via Microsoft Teams, before the Board of Stewards at Zia Park (3901 West Mullen Drive, Hobbs, NM 88240), for his Summary Suspension hearing, per Rule 15.2.1.9 A.(3)(c) on November 21, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., regarding a medication violation on October 19, 2025, for second place finisher "Js on Fire" from race 13 at The Downs at Albuquerque.

Sample E656230 tested positive for the drug D-Methamphetamine (Class 1 Penalty A4 drug). An affidavit from Industrial Laboratories (the official laboratory for the New Mexico Racing Commission) on October 30, 2025, reported the presence of D-Methamphetamine confirmed in blood.

Michael Joiner was listed as the Trainer of "Js on Fire" on October 19, 2025.
Joshua Owens was listed as the Owner of "Js on Fire" on October 19, 2025.

Split sample rights were afforded to Trainer Michael Joiner and accepted.

After hearing the testimony and viewing evidence presented, the Zia Park Board of Stewards determined that Michael Joiner shall remain summarily suspended pending the outcome of the split sample results.

NMAC 16.47.1.8 (L)(1)(e)(i)(o) Grounds for disciplinary measures for a licensee, and refusal, denial, suspension, or revocation of a license: (1) 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:
(e) has been found in violation of rules governing racing in New Mexico and of other racing commissions or of any recognized regulatory organization:
(i) is a person whose conduct or reputation may adversely reflect on the honesty and integrity of horse racing or interfere with the orderly conduct of a race meeting; interfering with the orderly conduct of a race meeting shall include, but is not limited to, disruptive or intemperate behavior or behavior which exposes others to danger anywhere on the racetrack grounds; the fact that the race meet was not actually interrupted is not a defense to the imposition of discipline under this rule;
(o) has engaged in conduct unbecoming or detrimental to the best interests of racing;

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NMAC 15.2.6.9 MEDICATIONS AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES: The classification guidelines contained within the "Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances and Recommended Penalties and Model Rule", December 2024 version 18.1 and "Association of Racing Commissioners International Controlled Therapeutic Medication Schedule for Horses", version 4.2.1. - December. 2020 update are incorporated by reference.
NMAC 15.2.6.9 B. Penalty Recommendations
NMAC 15.2.6.9 C. (1) Medication Restrictions; A finding by the commission approved laboratory of a prohibited substance in an official post-race or out-of-competition sample of a horse is prima facie evidence that the prohibited substance was administered to the horse and, in the case of a post-race test, was present in the horse's body while it was participating in a race.

NMAC 15.2.6.9 C. (8) Any horse that is the subject of a positive test report from the official laboratory for a drug in one of the following categories shall be placed immediately on the steward's list: (a) any drug categorized by the association of racing commissioner's international "uniform classification guidelines for foreign substance and recommended penalties and model rule" incorporated by reference under 15.2.6.9 NMAC as a penalty class A substance;

NMAC 15.2.3.8. B. (9)(a)(e) Stewards List
(a) The stewards shall maintain a stewards' list of the horses which are ineligible to be entered in a race because of poor or inconsistent performance behavior on the racetrack that endangers the health or safety of other participants in racing or for positive tests pursuant to Subsection C of 15.2.6.9 NMAC.
(e) A horse that has been placed on the steward's list for a positive test pursuant to Subsection C of 15.2.6.9 NMAC may only be removed if the criteria set forth in that subsection are met or in the event of a split sample result which does not confirm the official laboratory's original finding of a positive test.

In accordance with 15.2.1.9 B. (21). Michael Joiner is hereby excluded from all areas of the grounds under the jurisdiction of the NMRC. Additionally, effective upon applicable suspension dates, all horses owned, trained, or under the care of Michael Joiner are ineligible to be entered or start in any race in this jurisdiction, per 15.2.1.9 B.(21)(c).

NMSA 1978, Section 60-1A-4 (A)(2) provides "The commission may exclude or compel the exclusion of a person from all horse racetracks who the commission deems detrimental the best interest of horseracing..."

All transfers and sales of horses trained, owned, or in the care and custody of Michael Joiner must be done in accordance with 15.2.6.9 A.(13)(a)(b)(c)(d) Medication and Prohibited

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Substances, 15.2.1.9 A. (3) (a)(b)(c) Due Process and Disciplinary Action.

This Ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:
15.2.1.8 B. Commission General Authority
15.2.1.9 A. Proceedings Before the Stewards
15.2.3.8 B. Stewards
15.2.6.11 E. Trainer Responsibility
16.47.1.3 Statutory Authority
16.47.1.8 A. (1)(2) License Required
16.47.1.8.L. Grounds for Disciplinary Measures
16.47.1.8 N. Changes in Application
16.47.1.8 T. Knowledge of Rules
16.47.1.8 U. Protection of Horses
16.47.1.10 B. Absolute Insurer
16.47.1.10. C. Trainer – Other Responsibility

By Order of The Zia Park Stewards

Geoff Waples Julie Farr