



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: **2025-ZIA-21**
Track: Zia Park
Ruling Date: 11/22/2025

Licensee: HONESTO, JOE LOUIS

License Type: 2024 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 10244
License Number: 314348

Ruling # 2025-ZIA-21
Action Type: Case Continued
Ruling:
RE: 2025-ZIA-21 - Case Continued

Trainer Joe Louis Honesto having been properly noticed, failed to appear for his Summary Suspension hearing before the Zia Park Board of Stewards, which was held in absentia on November 30, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. per Rule 15.2.1.9 A. (3)(a)(b)(c) Summary Suspension. The Summary Suspension is regarding a medication violation on October 24, 2025, for first place finisher "Tellers Stray Love" from race 7 at The Downs At Albuquerque.

Sample E656248 tested positive for the drug Tulobuterol (Class 1 Penalty A drug). An affidavit from Industrial Laboratories (the official laboratory for the New Mexico Racing Commission) on November 21, 2025, reported the presence of Tulobuterol confirmed in blood.

The NMRC Investigator testified that Tulobuterol is not an FDA approved drug, and only FDA label-approved drugs for use in the horse may be prescribed [per NMAC 15.2.6.9 C.(12)(b)].

Joe Honesto was the Trainer of record for the horse "Tellers Stray Love" on October 24, 2025.

Xavier Alvarado was the Owner of record for the horse "Tellers Stray Love" on October 24, 2025.

Split sample rights were afforded to Trainer Joe Honesto and accepted, per NMAC 15.2.6.10 D.

After hearing the testimony and viewing evidence presented, the Zia Park Board of Stewards determined that Trainer Joe Honesto 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:



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(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;

NMAC16.47.1.8 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.

NMAC 16.47.1.10 B. (1) Absolute Insurer "The trainer is the absolute insurer of the condition of horses entered in an official workout or race..."

NMAC 16.47.1.10 C. (5)(19) Trainers: A trainer is responsible for:
(5) the proper identity, custody, care, health, condition, and safety of horses in their charge;

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 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.

A . Penalties:

(1) In issuing penalties against individuals found guilty of medication and drug violations, a regulatory distinction shall be made between the detection of therapeutic medications used routinely to treat racehorses and those drugs that have no reason to be found at any concentration in the test sample on race day.



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(2) The stewards or the commission will use the association of racing commissioner's international recommended penalty as a starting place in the penalty stage of the deliberations for a rule violation for any drug listed in the association of racing commissioners international uniform classification guidelines for foreign substances.

NMAC 15.2.6.9 B. Penalty Recommendations

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 15.2.6.11 Trainer Responsibility:

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.

B. A trainer shall prevent the administration of any drug or medication or other prohibited substance that may cause a violation of these rules.

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;

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



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positive test.

In accordance with 15.2.1.9 B. (21), Joe Louis Honesto 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 Joe Louis Honesto are ineligible to be entered or start in any race in this jurisdiction, per 15.2.1.9 A. (8)(b) & 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 Joe Louis Honesto must be done in accordance with 15.2.6.9 A. (13)(a)(b)(c)(d) Medication and Prohibited Substances & 16.47.1.10 D. (7) Assistant Trainers.

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
15.2.2.8 V. Ejection and Exclusion
15.2.3.8 B. Stewards
15.2.6.11 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 Wapler

Julie Farr