

**NEW MEXICO HORSE RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE RULES HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING**

Date: December 19, 2025

Place: NMRC Boardroom; 4900 Alameda Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM and on Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Chairman Billy Smith, Commissioner John Buffington, and Commissioner Bob Pitre.

NMRC Staff Participating: Executive Director Ismael Trejo, In-House Counsel Richard Bustamante and Senior Paralegal David Dominguez

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION TAKEN
Public Session 1: I. Call to Order and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Smith. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.	No Action Taken.
II. Pledge of Allegiance		Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
III. Approval of Agenda	Chairman Smith asked if there were any changes to the agenda today. Director Trejo requests that Items 4 A and 5 A be removed from the agenda.	Motion to remove Items 4 A and 5 A from the agenda made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION TAKEN
<p>IV. Rules Hearing (Public Comments Allowed – 1 minute limit per speaker)</p> <p>A. Subsection D of 15.2.3.8 NMAC – Payment of Purses</p> <p>B. Subsection A of 15.2.5.12 NMAC – Horses Ineligible</p> <p>C. Subsection A of 15.2.5.13 NMAC – Running of the Race</p>	<p>In-House Counsel Bustamante called the Rules Hearing to order. The purpose of this hearing is for the Commission to receive public comments on proposed amendments to the Commission's current rules and regulations. The Commission welcomes everyone present at this hearing.</p> <p>This hearing is being conducted pursuant to, and in accordance with, the provisions of the New Mexico Horse Racing Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 60-1A-1 through -30; the Open Meetings Act, Sections 10-15-1 through 10-15-4 and the New Mexico State Rules Act, NMSA 1978, Section 14-4-1 through -11. The legislative provision authorizing and mandating the Commission adopt administrative rules is Section 60-1A-4(B)(1) of the statutory Horse Racing Act. It is also held in accordance with the State Rules Act at 14-4-1 et seq.</p> <p>For public comments, all were reminded to wait until you are called upon, first identify yourself for the record each time you address the commission and to speak loudly and clearly so the recorder can pick up all the comments.</p> <p>Exhibits admitted into evidence were to made available for review by members of the public on the Commission's website and to members of the public upon request.</p>	

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	<p>Exhibit 1: Legal notice published in the New Mexico Register, New Mexico Sunshine Portal, the Albuquerque Journal, and New Mexico Legislative Council Service.</p> <p>Exhibit 2: Notice sent to Interested Parties</p> <p>Exhibit 3: Proposed amendments to the Commission Rule 15.2.5.12 NMAC entitled “Horses Ineligible” and 15.2.5.13 NMAC entitled “Running of the Race”</p> <p>Exhibit 4: Written Comments (There were no written comments received by the Commission.)</p> <p>Exhibit 5: Attendance Sheet(s)</p> <p>There were no public comments whatsoever at the Rules hearing.</p> <p>Hearing was closed and the Commission moved on to adoption of the proposed rule changes.</p>	
<p>V. Deliberation and Possible Rule Adoption (No Public Comments permitted at this stage)</p> <p>A. Subsection A of 15.2.5.12 NMAC – Horses Ineligible</p>	<p>The proposed amendments to subsection A of 15.2.5.12 NMAC were read out.</p>	<p>Motion to adopt amendments to 15.2.5.12 NMAC as submitted made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed</p>

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B. Subsection A of 15.2.5.13 NMAC – Running of the Race	<p>The proposed amendments to subsection A of 15.2.5.13 NMAC were read out.</p> <p>The public was informed that any rules adopted by the Commission will be filed at State Records and Archives in accordance with the State Rules Act and New Mexico Register publication deadlines. The adopted rules become effective January 13, 2026.</p> <p>The rules adoption portion of the meeting was closed.</p>	unanimously by roll call vote. Motion to adopt amendments to 15.2.5.13 NMAC as submitted made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
VI. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned after completion of items on the agenda.	

 1/22/26
Chairman Billy Smith Date:

 1-28-26
Executive Director Ismael Trejo Date: