



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-70
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: LEVARIO, JESSE LEE

License Type: 2025 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 32734
License Number: 317538

Ruling # 2026-RUI-70

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Jockey Jesse Lee Levario having been properly notified, appeared before the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards @ The DAA on June 28, 2026, for violation of the three strike rule by using the crop more than three times in succession (four strikes) while aboard #5 "Felton Road" in Race 9 at Ruidoso Downs @ The DAA on June 14, 2026. This is his third crop violation during The DAA 2026 race meets.

Licensee is found to be in violation of NMAC:

15.2.5.13 E. RUNNING OF THE RACE

(7)(a) Use of riding crops. Although the use of a riding crop is not required, any jockey who uses a riding crop during a race shall do so only in a manner consistent with exerting his or her best efforts to win.

(8) Use of riding crops. Indiscriminate use of the whip is prohibited including whipping a horse: on the head, flanks or on any other part of its body other than the shoulders or hind quarters except when necessary to control a horse; during the post parade or after the finish of the race except when necessary to control the horse; excessively or brutally causing welts or breaks in the skin; when the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing; persistently even though the horse is showing no response under the riding crop; or striking another rider or horse.

(9) Excessive use of the crop includes:

(a) Riders cannot use the riding crop more than three times in succession during a race, excluding showing or waiving the crop.

(b) Riders cannot use the crop more than three times in succession without giving the horse a chance to respond before using the crop again.

The Board of Stewards hereby issue (Third offense during The DAA 2026 race meets) the following penalty:

A fine in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars. (\$750.00). This fine is to be paid on or before July 12, 2026, in accordance with NMAC 15.2.3.8 B. (3)(e). Failure to pay the fine within the prescribed time may result in immediate suspension. Pursuant to NMAC 15.2.1.9. A. (7)(f) all fines imposed by the Stewards shall be paid to the Commission within 14 days after the Ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered.

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority

15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-70
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: LEVARIO, JESSE LEE

License Type: 2025 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 32734
License Number: 317538

15.2.3.8 B. Stewards 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

15.2.1.9 A. (9)(b): 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. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check, money order." The last day to file an appeal is July 8, 2026.

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-71
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: NAVARRETE, EUGENIO ALBERTO

License Type: 2025 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 157802
License Number: 316149

Ruling # 2026-RUI-71

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Jockey Eugenio Alberto Navarrete, Jr, having been properly notified, appeared before the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards @ The DAA on June 28, 2026, for violation of the three strike rule by using the crop more than three times in succession (four strikes) while aboard #4 "Jessys Valiant Spydr" in Race 15 at Ruidoso Downs @ The DAA on June 27, 2026. This is his third crop violation during The DAA 2026 race meets.

Licensee is found to be in violation of NMAC:

15.2.5.13 E. RUNNING OF THE RACE

(7)(a) Use of riding crops. Although the use of a riding crop is not required, any jockey who uses a riding crop during a race shall do so only in a manner consistent with exerting his or her best efforts to win.

(8) Use of riding crops. Indiscriminate use of the whip is prohibited including whipping a horse: on the head, flanks or on any other part of its body other than the shoulders or hind quarters except when necessary to control a horse; during the post parade or after the finish of the race except when necessary to control the horse; excessively or brutally causing welts or breaks in the skin; when the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing; persistently even though the horse is showing no response under the riding crop; or striking another rider or horse.

(9) Excessive use of the crop includes:

(a) Riders cannot use the riding crop more than three times in succession during a race, excluding showing or waiving the crop.

(b) Riders cannot use the crop more than three times in succession without giving the horse a chance to respond before using the crop again.

The Board of Stewards hereby issue (Third offense during The DAA 2026 race meets) the following penalty:

A fine in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars. (\$750.00). This fine is to be paid on or before July 12, 2026, in accordance with NMAC 15.2.3.8 B. (3)(e). Failure to pay the fine within the prescribed time may result in immediate suspension. Pursuant to NMAC 15.2.1.9. A. (7)(f) all fines imposed by the Stewards shall be paid to the Commission within 14 days after the Ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered.

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority

15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-71
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: NAVARRETE, EUGENIO ALBERTO

License Type: 2025 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 157802
License Number: 316149

15.2.3.8 B. Stewards 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

15.2.1.9 A. (9)(b): 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. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check, money order." The last day to file an appeal is July 8, 2026.

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-72
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: VILLANUEVA, JUAN CARLOS

License Type: Applicant Id: 34058
License Number:

Ruling # 2026-RUI-72

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Mr. Juan Carlos Villanueva having been properly noticed and having appeared with an industry representative, appeared before the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards @ the DAA, on June 27, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. for his disciplinary hearing regarding having been observed on the grounds galloping horses @ The DAA under the jurisdiction of the NMRC while under suspension per Ruling 2025-SUN-86 and 2024-RUI-108.

Aggravating factors considered:

This is Juan Carlos Villanueva's second offense being on the grounds during a suspension.

Licensee is found in violation of NMAC:

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;

The Board of Stewards hereby issue the following penalties:

1. Mr. Juan Carlos Villanueva must complete and comply with the terms set forth in Ruling 2024-RUI-108.

2. Following the compliance and completion of ruling 2024-RUI-108, Mr. Juan Carlos Villanueva is ineligible to apply for licensure for a year, beginning September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027.

In accordance with 15.2.1.9 (B)(21)(a)(b) Juan Carlos Villanueva is hereby excluded from all areas of the grounds under the jurisdiction of the NMRC.



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-72
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: VILLANUEVA, JUAN CARLOS

License Type: Applicant Id: 34058
License Number:

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority
15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action
15.2.2.8 V. (1) Ejection and Exclusion
15.2.3.8 B. Stewards
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

15.2.1.9 A. (9)(b): 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. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check or money order." The last day to file an appeal is July 8, 2026.

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-73
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: ORTEGA-ARMENDARIZ, RAUL ADRIEL
License Type: 2024 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 166064
License Number: 312586

Ruling # 2026-RUI-73
Action Type: Initial Ruling
Ruling:

Jockey Rual Ortega, having been properly noticed, appeared with an industry representative, before the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards at the DAA, on June 26, 2026, for careless riding during the running of race 1 on June 21, 2026, while aboard #4 "Theodoro", for veering in sharply under right-handed whip intimidating #1.

Licensee is found in violation of NMAC:

15.2.5.13 E. (2)(a) Post to Finish: A jockey shall not ride carelessly or willfully so as to permit their mount to interfere with, impede or intimidate any other horse in the race.

15.2.5.13 E. (2)(b) No jockey shall carelessly or willfully jostle, strike or touch another jockey or another jockey's horse or equipment. It shall be the discretion of the stewards to determine if the jostle, strike or touch had an effect on the outcome of the race and warrants a disqualification

15.2.5.13 E (3) Maintaining a straight course:

15.2.5.13 E. (3)(a) When the way is clear in a race, a horse may be ridden to any part of the course, but if any horse swerves, or is ridden to either side, so as to interfere with, impede, or intimidate any other horse, it is a foul.

15.2.5.13 E. (3)(b) The offending horse may be disqualified, if in the opinion of the stewards, the foul altered the finish of the race, regardless of whether the foul was accidental, willful or the result of careless riding.

15.2.5.13 E. (3)(c) If the Stewards determine the foul was intentional, or due to careless riding, they may fine or suspend the guilty jockey.

15.2.5.13 E. (3)(d) In a straightaway race, every horse must maintain position as nearly as possible in the lane in which it starts. If a horse is ridden, drifts or swerves out of its lane in such a manner that it interferes with, impedes or intimidates another horse, it is a foul and may result in the disqualification of the offending horse.

For this violation, the Board of Stewards issued the following penalty:

A 7-calendar day suspension, beginning on July 3, 2026, through July 9, 2026 (Inclusive).
Raul Ortega may ride in designated races.

16.47.1.12 G. (4)(a)(b)(5)(a)(b)(c)(6) Jockey Suspensions and Designated Races.

This ruling is written in accordance with:

15.2.1.8 B. Commission General Authority

15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action

15.2.3.8 B. Stewards

16.47.1.3 Statutory Authority



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-73
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 6/28/2026

Licensee: ORTEGA-ARMENDARIZ, RAUL ADRIEL

License Type: 2024 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 166064
License Number: 312586

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

15.2.1.9 A (9)(b): 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. The fee must be in the form of cash, a cashier's check, or money order". The last day to file an appeal is July 8, 2026.

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-74
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/3/2026

Licensee: VALLES, RODOLFO GUADALUPE

License Type: 2025 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 33090
License Number: 315982

Ruling # 2026-RUI-74

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Trainer Rodolfo G. Valles, having been duly notified, telephonically waived his right to a 10-day notice and formal disciplinary hearing before the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards @ The DAA, on June 29, 2026, for failure to bring his entry #4 "Going Grand Dancer" to the paddock with proper equipment (flipping halter) for race 1 on June 28, 2026, at The DAA.

Licensee is found to be in violation of NMAC:

15.2.5.8 B. (6) Procedure for Entries: No alteration may be made in any entry after the closing of entries, but an error may be corrected with permission of the stewards.
15.2.5.8 B. (10) Procedure for Entries: Any approved change of equipment must be declared at time of entry. Any changes after that time must be approved by the stewards.
15.2.6.11E. (11) Trainer Responsibility: The trainer is responsible for ensuring proper bandages, equipment, and shoes.
16.47.1.10 C. (17)(20) Trainers; Other Responsibility

The Board of Stewards hereby issue the following penalty:

A fine of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). This fine is to be paid on or before July 17, 2026, in accordance with NMAC 15.2.3.8 B. (3)(e). Failure to pay the fine within the prescribed time may result in immediate suspension. Pursuant to NMAC 15.2.1.9. A. (7)(f) all fines imposed by the Stewards shall be paid to the Commission within 14 days after the Ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered.

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority
15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action
15.2.3.8 B. Stewards
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
15.2.1.9 A. (9)(b): Appeal Procedures, which states "An appeal under this section must be filed not later than 10 days after the day of the ruling. If the deadline falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, the period is extended to 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 \$400.00 dollars. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check or a money order. The last



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-74
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/3/2026

Licensee: VALLES, RODOLFO GUADALUPE

License Type: 2025 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 33090
License Number: 315982

day to file is July 13, 2026.

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-75
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/3/2026

Licensee: AMAYA, DANIEL ROBERTO

License Type: 2026 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 33287
License Number: 318693

Ruling # 2026-RUI-75

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Trainer Daniel Amaya, having been duly notified, waived his right to a 10-day notice and formal disciplinary hearing before the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards @ The DAA, on July 2, 2026, for failure to bring his entry #5 "Sparks Fly Hr" to the paddock with proper equipment (flipping halter) for race 4 on June 28, 2026, at The DAA.

Licensee is found to be in violation of NMAC:

15.2.5.8 B. (6) Procedure for Entries: No alteration may be made in any entry after the closing of entries, but an error may be corrected with permission of the stewards.
15.2.5.8 B. (10) Procedure for Entries: Any approved change of equipment must be declared at time of entry. Any changes after that time must be approved by the stewards.
15.2.6.11E. (11) Trainer Responsibility: The trainer is responsible for ensuring proper bandages, equipment, and shoes.
16.47.1.10 C. (17)(20) Trainers; Other Responsibility

The Board of Stewards hereby issue the following penalty:

A fine of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). This fine is to be paid on or before July 17, 2026, in accordance with NMAC 15.2.3.8 B. (3)(e). Failure to pay the fine within the prescribed time may result in immediate suspension. Pursuant to NMAC 15.2.1.9. A. (7)(f) all fines imposed by the Stewards shall be paid to the Commission within 14 days after the Ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered.

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority
15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action
15.2.3.8 B. Stewards
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
15.2.1.9 A. (9)(b): Appeal Procedures, which states "An appeal under this section must be filed not later than 10 days after the day of the ruling. If the deadline falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, the period is extended to 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 \$400.00 dollars. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check or a money order. The last



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-75
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/3/2026

Licensee: AMAYA, DANIEL ROBERTO

License Type: 2026 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 33287
License Number: 318693

day to file is July 13, 2026.

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-76
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/3/2026

Licensee: CRUZ, ALEJANDRO

License Type: 2026 1 Year Groom Applicant Id: 160570
License Number: 318835

Ruling # 2026-RUI-76

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Groom Alejandro Cruz is hereby summarily suspended, effective immediately July 3, 2026, pending the outcome of his summary suspension hearing scheduled for July 13, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards office (The Downs at Albuquerque) at (Lomas & Louisiana EXPO Grounds Gate #7, Albuquerque, NM 87110) per 15.2.1.9 A. (3) (a)(b)(c) Summary Suspension, regarding a failed drug test conducted by the New Mexico Racing Commission investigator.

During said time of applicable suspension Alejandro Cruz is hereby excluded from all areas of the grounds under the jurisdiction of the NMRC, per Rule 15.2.1.9 B. (21) (a-b) Exclusion.

NMAC 16.47.1.8 L 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.

16.47.1.17 A. HUMAN DRUG OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND ALCOHOL TESTING:

16.47.1.17. B. (7) Restricted activities: All licensees may be subject to testing for controlled substances, drugs and alcohol. It shall be a violation for a licensee to utilize their commission issued license if the licensee: presently has drugs or controlled substances or alcohol in their body

16.47.1.18 A. TESTING PROCEDURES: Controlled Substance and Drug Testing:

(1) At its discretion, the commission may conduct random or episodic random drug testing, as well as testing based on reasonable suspicion, in order to ensure safety on the association grounds.

(2) All licensees may be subject to testing for controlled substances and drugs.



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-76
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/3/2026

Licensee: CRUZ, ALEJANDRO

License Type: 2026 1 Year Groom Applicant Id: 160570
License Number: 318835

(3) No advance notice need be given.

15.2.1.9 A. (3) Proceedings Before the Stewards: Summary Suspension.

(a) If the Stewards determine that a licensee's action constitutes an immediate danger to the public health, safety, integrity or welfare of the horseracing industry, the Stewards may summarily suspend the license pending a hearing.

(b) A licensee whose license has been summarily suspended is entitled to a hearing on the summary suspension not later than the 10th day after the license was summarily suspended. The licensee may waive their right to a hearing on the summary suspension within the 10-day limit.

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority
15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action
15.2.2.8 V. (1) Ejection and Exclusion
15.2.3.8 B. Stewards
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

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-77
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/5/2026

Licensee: ORTEGA-ARMENDARIZ, RAUL ADRIEL
License Type: 2024 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 166064
License Number: 312586

Ruling # 2026-RUI-77
Action Type: Initial Ruling
Ruling:

Jockey Raul Ortega, having been properly notified, appeared before the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards @ The DAA on July 5, 2026, for violation of the three strike rule by using the crop more than three times in succession (four strikes) while aboard #4 "King Dynasty" in Race 2 at Ruidoso Downs @ The DAA on July 4, 2026. This is his second crop violation during The DAA 2026 race meets.

Licensee is found to be in violation of NMAC:

15.2.5.13 E. RUNNING OF THE RACE

(7)(a) Use of riding crops. Although the use of a riding crop is not required, any jockey who uses a riding crop during a race shall do so only in a manner consistent with exerting his or her best efforts to win.

(8) Use of riding crops. Indiscriminate use of the whip is prohibited including whipping a horse: on the head, flanks or on any other part of its body other than the shoulders or hind quarters except when necessary to control a horse; during the post parade or after the finish of the race except when necessary to control the horse; excessively or brutally causing welts or breaks in the skin; when the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing; persistently even though the horse is showing no response under the riding crop; or striking another rider or horse.

(9) Excessive use of the crop includes:

(a) Riders cannot use the riding crop more than three times in succession during a race, excluding showing or waiving the crop.

(b) Riders cannot use the crop more than three times in succession without giving the horse a chance to respond before using the crop again.

The Board of Stewards hereby issue (Second offense during The DAA 2026 race meets) the following penalty: A fine in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars. (\$500.00). This fine is to be paid on or before July 19, 2026, in accordance with NMAC 15.2.3.8 B. (3)(e). Failure to pay the fine within the prescribed time may result in immediate suspension. Pursuant to NMAC 15.2.1.9. A. (7)(f) all fines imposed by the Stewards shall be paid to the Commission within 14 days after the Ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered.

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority

15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action

15.2.3.8 B. Stewards 16.47.1.3 Statutory Authority



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-77
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/5/2026

Licensee: ORTEGA-ARMENDARIZ, RAUL ADRIEL
License Type: 2024 3 Year Jockey Applicant Id: 166064
License Number: 312586

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
15.2.1.9 A. (9)(b): 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. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check, money order." The last day to file an appeal is July 15, 2026.

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-78
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: SALAZAR, MICHELLE MEYER
License Type: 2024 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 21092
License Number: 313894

Ruling # 2026-RUI-78
Action Type: Initial Ruling
Ruling:

Owner/Trainer Michelle Salazar is hereby summarily suspended, effective immediately, July 9, 2026, pending the outcome of her summary suspension hearing scheduled July 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Ruidoso Downs @ DAA Board of Stewards (145 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108), per 15.2.1.9 A.(3)(a)(b)(c) Summary Suspension. The Summary Suspension is regarding a medication violation on June 20, 2026, for fourth place finisher #9 "Fly Through Winter" from race 6 at Ruidoso Downs @ DAA.

Sample #E728216 tested positive for the drug Albuterol (Class 3 Penalty A drug). An affidavit from Industrial Laboratories (the official laboratory for the New Mexico Racing Commission) on July 7, 2026, reported Albuterol confirmed in Urine.

Michelle Salazar was listed as the Trainer of record for the horse "Fly Through Winter" on June 20, 2026.
Jacob M. Tafoya was listed as the Owner of record for the horse "Fly Through Winter" on June 20, 2026.

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;

NMAC 16.47.1.8 U. (2) Protection of Horses:

NMAC 16.47.1.10 B. (1) Absolute Insurer:

NMAC 16.47.1.10-C. (5) Trainers:

NMAC 15.2.6.9 MEDICATIONS AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES:

A . Penalties



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

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-78
Track: Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: SALAZAR, MICHELLE MEYER

License Type: 2024 3 Year Trainer **Applicant Id:** 21092
License Number: 313894

B. Penalty Recommendations

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.

C. (4) There is no permissible concentration of clenbuterol or albuterol that is allowed to appear in any official sample. This includes samples collected from Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds.

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 A.B.E. Trainer Responsibility

NMAC 15.2.3.8. B. (9)(a)(e) Stewards List

In accordance with 15.2.1.9 B. (21), Michelle Salazar 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 Michelle Salazar are ineligible to be entered or start in any race in this jurisdiction, per 15.2.1.9 B.(21)(c).

All transfers and sales of horses trained, owned, or in the care and custody of Michelle Salazar must be done in accordance with 15.2.6.9 A.(13)(a)(b)(c)(d) Medication and Prohibited Substances, 15.2.1.9 A. (8) Due Process and Disciplinary Action, and 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 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



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-78
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: SALAZAR, MICHELLE MEYER

License Type: 2024 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 21092
License Number: 313894

16.47.1.10. C. Trainer – Other Responsibility

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-79
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: CHAVEZ, JAVIER M

License Type: 2025 3 Year Owner Applicant Id: 20279
License Number: 317625

Ruling # 2026-RUI-79

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Owner Javier Chavez is hereby summarily suspended, effective immediately, July 9, 2026, pending the outcome of his summary suspension hearing scheduled on July 18, 2026, at 9:30 A.M. in the offices of the Board of Stewards at Ruidoso Downs at The Downs at Albuquerque Racetrack (145 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108) per 15.2.1.9 A. (3)(b) (Summary Suspension). The suspension is regarding six out-of-competition samples testing positive for albuterol in the following horses:

"Shade Factor" on June 8, 2026.

"Billons", on June 8, 2026.

"Plutus", on June 8, 2026.

"Teller Perry Mrl", on June 8, 2026.

"Apollitical Crown", on June 8, 2026.

"Ladies Kiss My Hocks", on June 8, 2026.

Javier Chavez is hereby excluded from all areas of the grounds under the jurisdiction of the NMRC, per 15.2.1.9 B. (21) (a-b) Exclusion.

15.2.6.9 B. (5) Penalty recommendations: Out-Of-Competition penalties will be assed for violation in any official sample other than blood and urine due to the presence of:

(a) penalty class A drugs as listed above and with the association of racing commissioners international "uniform classification guidelines for foreign substances and recommended penalties and model rules" and incorporated by reference under 15.2.6.9 NMAC.

(d) clenbuterol or albuterol present in any official sample in a horse not previously placed on the vegetarian's list pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (C) of 15.2.6.9 NMAC;

NMAC 15.2.6.9 C. Medication restrictions:

(1) 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.

(4) There is no permissible concentration of a clenbuterol or albuterol that is allowed to appear in any official sample. This includes samples collected from Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds.

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



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

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-79
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: CHAVEZ, JAVIER M

License Type: 2025 3 Year Owner Applicant Id: 20279
License Number: 317625

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;

16.47.1.8 U. Protection of horses:

(1) Each person licensed by the commission shall do all that is reasonable and within their power and scope of duty to guard against and prevent the administration of any drug, medication or other substance, including permissible medication in excess of the maximum allowable level, to any horse entered or to be entered in an official workout or race, as prohibited by these rules.

(2) 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 of sustenance, shelter or veterinary care.

This ruling was written in accordance with:

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
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

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-79
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: CHAVEZ, JAVIER M

License Type: 2025 3 Year Owner Applicant Id: 20279
License Number: 317625

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-80
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: DUREE, DOMINIC CARL

License Type: 2025 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 25165
License Number: 315179

Ruling # 2026-RUI-80

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

In reference to the ruling from the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) Rule 3216 (c) – Prohibited Association, and in accordance with 15.2.1.9. B. (22) **Reciprocity** and 15.2.1.9 A. (8)(c) **Effect of Rulings**, the Owner/Trainer license issued to **Dominic C. Duree** (NMRC Applicant ID #25165) is hereby suspended through June 27, 2028.

16.47.1.8 L. (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 this state or other jurisdictions.
(g) has been or is currently excluded from association grounds by a recognized racing jurisdiction.
(h) has had privileges or a license denied, suspended, or revoked by any racing commission or a recognized regulatory organization.

Dominic C. Duree is hereby excluded from all areas of the grounds under the jurisdiction of the NMRC, per 15.2.19. B. (21) (a-b) Exclusion.

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
15.2.6.9 A. (13)(d) Penalties
16.47.1.3 Statutory Authority
16.47.1.8 A. (1)(2) License Required
16.47.1.8 N. Changes in Application
16.47.1.8. T. Knowledge of Rules

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-80
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/9/2026

Licensee: DUREE, DOMINIC CARL

License Type: 2024 3 Year Owner Applicant Id: 25165
License Number: 313257

Ruling # 2026-RUI-80

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

In reference to the ruling from the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) Rule 3216 (c) – Prohibited Association, and in accordance with 15.2.1.9. B. (22) **Reciprocity** and 15.2.1.9 A. (8)(c) **Effect of Rulings**, the Owner/Trainer license issued to **Dominic C. Duree** (NMRC Applicant ID #25165) is hereby suspended through June 27, 2028.

16.47.1.8 L. (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 this state or other jurisdictions.
(g) has been or is currently excluded from association grounds by a recognized racing jurisdiction.
(h) has had privileges or a license denied, suspended, or revoked by any racing commission or a recognized regulatory organization.

Dominic C. Duree is hereby excluded from all areas of the grounds under the jurisdiction of the NMRC, per 15.2.19. B. (21) (a-b) Exclusion.

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
15.2.6.9 A. (13)(d) Penalties
16.47.1.3 Statutory Authority
16.47.1.8 A. (1)(2) License Required
16.47.1.8 N. Changes in Application
16.47.1.8. T. Knowledge of Rules

By Order of The Ruidoso Downs Stewards

Violet Smith

Geoff Wapler

Ronald Frazier



New Mexico Racing Commission
4900 Alameda NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ruling #: 2026-RUI-81
Track Ruidoso Downs
Ruling Date: 7/12/2026

Licensee: MARR, GERALD E
License Type: 2023 3 Year Trainer Applicant Id: 20440
License Number: 309601

Ruling # 2026-RUI-81

Action Type: Initial Ruling

Ruling:

Trainer Gerald Marr having been duly notified, regarding a medication violation (sample #E728219) for the horse "Blooming Resource" which was reported as a Lasix violation is hereby dismissed as permission was granted to race on Lasix by the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards.

This ruling is written in accordance with NMAC:

15.2.1.8 B. (1) Commission General Authority
15.2.1.9 A. Due Process and Disciplinary Action
15.2.3.8 B. Stewards (1)(d)(e)
15.2.6.9 D. Lasix (2)
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

15.2.1.9 A. (9)(a)(b): Which states in pertinent part that "An appeal under this section must be filed not later than 10 days after the day 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. The fee must be in the form of a cashier's check or a money order. The last day to file an appeal is July 22, 2026.