

Colorado Racing Commission  
February 12, 2025  
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular scheduled meeting of the Colorado Racing Commission (“Commission”) was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 via video conference provided by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM.

Members Present

Tameka Sampson, Chair  
Kjersten Davis, Vice Chair  
Jeff Ruebel, Member  
Jonathan Horowitz, Member  
John Hammes, Member

Members Absent

None

Racing Staff Present

Sarah Killeen, Assistant Attorney General for Division of Racing Events  
Michael Phibbs, Senior Director of Specialized Business Group  
Kelly Haralson, Interim Director/Agent in Charge Division of Racing  
Emily Maurer, Criminal Investigator Division of Racing  
Sanela Simic, Auditor Division of Racing  
Emmalie Baxter, Compliance Inter Division of Racing  
Dania Cobos-Bejarano, Administrative Assistant Division of Racing  
Janina Rivera, Business Analyst Division of Racing  
Brian L. Miller, DVM, Veterinarian Division of Racing

1. Approval of October 31, 2024 Minutes

Minutes approved for 10/31/2024

**DECISION ITEMS**

2. Release of Greyhound funding and new fund info - Sanela Simic, Auditor

Sanela Simic, Division Auditor presented the two applications received from Friends of Retired Greyhounds and Colorado Greyhound Adoption for a total of \$3,142.31. Friends of Retired Greyhounds requested \$1,571.16 and Colorado Greyhound Adoption requested \$1,571.16.

Motion made by Commissioner Hammes to release the funds with a second made by

Commissioner Ruebel. Motion passed unanimously.

Sanela Simic, Division Auditor presented the new fund per House Bill 23-1041, the division requested and set up the new Greyhound Welfare and Adoption Fund through the State Treasury starting the current calendar year 2025. The fund will be maintained by the Treasury and audited by the division. Per Bill 23-1041, the new welfare fund will not be funded by the Horse Purse Trust, nor the Owners and Breeders Escrow. Its funding will not come from Arapahoe Park Track directly, nor as an additional process or payment. Some of that revenue will fund this new account. The first year 2025 is \$25,000 and the additional year 2026 with an additional \$50,000 in January 2026. This includes any interest and income derived from the deposits. So the \$75,000 due to accumulate in the new Treasury Fund has to be exhausted by June 30th of 2026 before the end of fiscal year 2026. Otherwise, as the bill states, the state treasurer shall transfer all remaining welfare money in the fund on July 31st, 2026 to the general fund. The Division will need to put a new process together so that the expected welfare can be distributed accordingly.

3. End of Meet Report 2024 - Kelly Haralson, Interim Director, Sanela Simic, Division Auditor and Dr. Brian L. Miller, DVM Division's Veterinarian

Interim Director Haralson, Sanela Simic, Division Auditor and Dr. Brian L. Miller, DVM Division's Veterinarian presented the 2024 End of Meet Report that included the following information:

**TOTAL NUMBER OF HORSE RACES OFFERED**

	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
Live race days	39	<b>30</b>
Live races	315	<b>224</b>

**TOTAL HANDLES - United Tote**

In-State Live (Track)	\$498,003.50
In-State Live (OTB)	\$66,406.70
Out-of-State Live	\$0.00
<b>Total Handle</b>	<b>\$564,410.20</b>
*Change from 2023	-\$6,728,869.86

The change is greater than usual due to no out-of-state wagers/signal on Arp Live '24.

**2023**

**2024**

In-State Live	\$1,227,861.50	<b>In-State Live</b>	<b>\$564,410.20</b>
Out-of-State	\$6,065,418.56	<b>Out-of-State</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENT OF PURSES BY BREED**

<u>Breed</u>	<u># of Races</u>	<u># of Starts</u>	<u>Purses Paid</u>
Thoroughbred	167	1053	\$2,755,250.00
Quarter Horse	54	369	\$992,295.00
Arabian	0	0	\$-
Mixed	3	20	\$34,500.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>1442</b>	<b>\$3,782,045.00</b>

**PURSES PAID**

Total Purses 2024                   **\$3,782,045.00** \* '24 Live meet with 30 days of racing  
Total Purses 2023                   **\$3,299,453.00** \* '23 Live meet with 39 days of racing

\*Change from 2023                   +\$482,592.00

**TOTAL TRANSFERS FOR MEET '24**

Total Purse Money from US Purse to Wells Fargo as of current date                   **\$3,514,300.00** \* \$267,745 remaining due for transfer. Not yet requested by Arp Bally's as of 2/11/25  
Total Early Release to CTBA                   **\$100,000.00**

**PURSES EARNED HORSE LIVE/SIMULCST + DOG**

Total Purses Earned During '24 Live                   **\$220,420.98**

Dog \$36,715.56

Horse \$152,354.49

Live \$31,350.93

\*Change from 2023 -\$144,499.20

**BREAKAGE (30 Race Days)**

In-State Live (Track) **\$4,996.14**

\*Change from 2023 -\$823.88

**PAYOUT/PAY TO PUBLIC (30 Race Days)**

In-State Live (Track) **\$438,857.70**

Out-of-State Live **\$0.00**

\*Change from 2023 -\$4,781,970.25

The change is greater than usual due to no out-of-state wagers/signal on Arp Live '24

**A. TOTAL INJURIES**

**ARP EQUINE MORBIDITY & MORTALITY (racing & training and non-racing related)**

	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
Total Starts	2360	2082	1442
Total Injuries	33	24	13
Catastrophic Injuries: Live racing & Race-Associated	11 total 5	3-TB 2-QH 1-Grade	1 - TB & 1 - QH
Died or euthanized due to sickness or accident (non-racing related)	3	1-TB	1 - QH
Training Injuries	3	2-TB & 1-QH	4-TB

**Live Racing Fatalities Per 1000 Starts Bally's Arapahoe Park 2024**

Thoroughbreds	<b>.9</b>
Quarter Horses	<b>2.7</b>
TOTAL – Combined breeds	<b>1.39</b>

**National Statistical Summary from 2009 to 2023<sup>1</sup>**

(Thoroughbred Flat Racing Only)

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Rate</b>	1.92	1.90	1.89	1.62	1.54	1.61	1.68	1.53	1.41	1.39	1.25	1.32

\*2024 stats not available at the time of this report

**B. ANIMAL WELFARE & TEST BARN STATISTICS**

**Veterinarian Staff**

- CRC State Veterinarian Brian Miller, DVM
- CRC State Veterinarian Joni Smith, DVM, Seasonal
- Association Veterinarian Autumn Sorensen, DVM, Seasonal
- Certified Veterinary Technician Gillian Stott, Seasonal
- Certified Veterinary Technician Becky Divine, Seasonal
- Veterinary Assistant Sarah Liepold, Seasonal
- Veterinary Assistant Solange Dubreuil, Seasonal
- Veterinary Assistant Jennifer Hernandez, Seasonal
- Veterinary Assistant Ana Munoz, Seasonal
- Veterinary Assistant Kendra Graves, Seasonal
- Veterinary Assistant Sarah Smith, Seasonal
- Veterinary Assistant Madison Montoya, Seasonal

Under CRS 44-32-706 1(b) In temporary or emergency situations, a licensed operator for the racing of animals, with the approval of and under the direction of the director or the director's designee, may provide for veterinary services as described in section 44-32-202 (3), at the licensed operator's expense, and the expense thus incurred may be deducted from the payment made to the department in accordance with subsection (1)(a) of this section;

<sup>1</sup> Statistics from The Jockey Club website jockeyclub.com

The amount the Association pays offsets their \$60K licensing fee.

\*This year the Association did not pay any licensing fees or veterinary services.

**C. VETERINARIAN PRE-RACE EXAMINATIONS**

Pre-race horse examinations (approximate)	1990
Horses scratched from Veterinarian examinations	15
Horses placed on Veterinarian list in 2024	50
Race day scratched horses (pre-race & late vet scratches)	15
Total number of starts	1442

**D. TESTING**

Horses tested post-race (all breeds)	531
Post-race blood collected	531 (100.0%)
Post -race urine collected	496 (93.4%)
QH Out of Competition blood tests	0
TB Out of competition (blood) + TCO2 + Vet's List testing	1
QH Hair samples <sup>2</sup> (approximate)	62
QH Hair samples for other jurisdictions <sup>3</sup>	1

**E. MEDICATION VIOLATIONS (*positive hair tests included*)**

<sup>2</sup>The RMQHA will present their hair testing rules to the Commission early next year prior to the meet. RMQHA waived the 50-day hair testing entry requirement for 2024 @ ARP

<sup>3</sup> Several states are using hair tests for entry requirements.

Industrial Laboratories, the Division's contract testing lab, reported:

**2023**      **2024**

<u>Types</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>HIWU</u>	<u>State</u>
Total Positive Tests	4	1	15
NSAID Overages	0	1	3
Unauthorized Medications	3		6 <sup>4</sup>
Prohibited Substances	1		0

The authorized medication overages and unauthorized medications substances detected:

Authorized medication overages

- Phenylbutazone (accounted for in the NSAID overage category)

Unauthorized medications

- Dexamethasone
- Methocarbamol
- Lidocaine (metabolite; 3-Hydroxylicocaine)
- Albuterol
- Clenbuterol
- Zilpaterol

Prohibited Medications and Substances

- none

**F. INSPECTIONS / INVESTIGATIONS**

**Investigations staff**

Criminal Investigator - Emily Maurer  
Compliance Investigator Intern - Emmalie Baxter

**1. DIVISION RANDOM DRAW – HUMAN DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING**

The Division of Racing Events performed random drug testing pursuant to CRCR 3.437 during Bally's Arapahoe Park 2024 race meet. The testing policy and procedures remained the same as last year's meet, where a representative from either the Colorado Horse Racing Association and/or Arapahoe Park were invited to witness the Division's random selection of the

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<sup>4</sup> Litigation pending for 1 incident

names. Five (5) lists were generated from the license files. From these five lists, three random numbers are drawn that correspond to the names on that list for each of the live race days for the total eligible for testing from the five (5) different job categories.

Category	Number of licensees
Trainers/Owner Trainers	5
Jockeys/Agents	5
ExerciseRider/Pony Person/Plater/Grooms	7
Racing Officials	3
TOTAL HDT	20

## 2. STABLE INSPECTIONS

Pursuant to § 44-32-501(1), C.R.S., the Division conducted **69** barn/trainer inspections, including pre-meet inspections. All physical problems found during these inspections were reported via memo to the Director of Racing.

## 3. INVESTIGATIONS - WARNINGS/CITATIONS ISSUED

Incidents	112
Citations	10
Warnings	20+Verbal 0 Written
HISA Investigations	None

## 4. ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

### Board of Stewards

State Steward, James Smith, Seasonal

State Steward, Floyd Campbell, Seasonal

Association Steward, Nichelle Milner (09/06/2024 to 09/30/2024)

Association Steward, Martin Hamilton (10/01/2024 to 11/17/2024)

Association Safety Steward, Nichelle Milner (10/01/2024 to 11/17/2024)

The Board of Stewards at Arapahoe Park issued rulings for the following



violations.

Violation	Rulings Issued
Stewards rulings	2
Jockey Discipline	0
Medication violation	5

The following fines were assessed:

State Rulings	\$10,200 ( <i>not including pending</i> )
Citations	\$1,600.00
HISA Rulings	None

**G. LICENSING (including revenue)**

**Licensing Staff**

Licensing Specialist Lead - Dania Cobos-Bejarano

\*\*Assisted by Compliance Investigator Intern - Emmalie Baxter  
& Temp Legal Assistant - Stephanie Babb

Division staff moved in one week in advance of opening day to set up in the new office location, conduct pre-meet inspections and ensure everyone was compliant and assisted on time. Licensees were encouraged to submit all information online or in-person prior to the start of 2024 live meet. Two laptop computers were available in the licensing office to encourage licensees to complete applications online. Staff assistance was provided upon request.

The Division provided on-site fingerprinting services during the meet season once technology was set up. Vendor services through IdentoGo and CABS fingerprinting were also available to in-state and out-of-state applicants.

- Total license applications through the end of the meet and other fees collected:

*\*(i) = Individual; (b) = Business*

Type	Total	Payment Total (\$)
Support (i)	218	\$6,649.00
Support Renewals (i)	65	\$1,300.00
Registration (i)	6	\$60.00

Key (i)	2	\$361.00
Key Renewals (i)	1	\$70.50
Major (b)	–	–
Major Renewals (b)	–	–
Minor (b)	23	\$2,081.50
Minor Renewals (b)	–	–
Wagering Facility (b)	–	–
Stable Registrations (b)	12	\$0.00 (no cost)
Validations (i)	231	\$0.00 (no cost)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>\$10,522.00</b>

Type	Total	Payment Total (\$)
Race Meet Fines	22	\$13,920.00
Refunds	5	\$80.00
Internal Fingerprints	170	\$6,715.00
Additional Occupation	2	\$20.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>\$20,735.00</b>

**2023 vs 2024**

2023 Application Total

736

2023 Total Fees Collected

\$31,243.00

2024 Application Total

558

2024 Total Fees Collected

\$31,257.00

Change from 2023 +\$14.00

*\*Slight increase in earnings*

- Total license applications through the end of the meet by submission type:

License Type	In Person	Online/Email	Via Mail
New/Renewals	249	60	18
Validations	210	17	4

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>22</b>
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**Recommendations / Comments**

- The Division Racing Office moved to the backside (*previous Racing Secretary Office*) one week before the start of the 2024 Race Meet. (*ARP assisted moving furniture from the old Division office to the new one*) Air conditioning could not be regulated by thermostat and it became very cold at times. The building does not have any heating (*indoor temps in the 50's*).
- Exterminator provided for rodent/insect concerns. Missing and stained ceiling panels above desks allowed weather, wind and debris to blow in. Some ceiling tiles were later installed.
- Promote DOR online license services to licensees on all appropriate Racing websites prior to future meets which will help avoid delays.
- Test Barn wash bay asphalt removed and replaced. To decrease the risk of the new asphalt being slippery, ARP provided mats for the wash bay to increase traction. Wash bay water poles, previously leaking, were replaced and the wash bay fencing was removed and replaced before the beginning of the 2024 meet..
- Electricity turned off to the backside. No hot water was available to any barn or to the Test Barn. Upgrade lighting to better illuminate Test Barn stalls and offices. (*Jogger had power due to it being tied into the maintenance building - jogger not offered for use.*)
- Due to the electricity being turned off, there was no lighting on the backside. ARP provided a solar powered security light on the north end of the Test Barn, and two smaller solar powered lights by lab office work areas.
- Stable gate guest sign-in log not maintained, names illegible or missing. Missing and incomplete horse ownership paperwork. Missing health records. (*Horse allowed entry w/o Coggins- no quarantine facility available, horse remained in stall until the negative coggins was provided*). Horses allowed entry without proper ownership documents (*resulting in a scratch and another in a DQ/Redistribution*).
- Work with South Metro Fire (SMF) to ensure compliance with fire code. SMF inspection was completed once electricity was turned off and fire alarm inspection. (*SMF later approved use of generators at the walkers only*).
- Bathrooms/showers were reportedly not in use at the barns. Portable toilets set up on the backside. (*during warmer weather, people reportedly using showers in barns that did not have occupancy permits*)
- The Division strongly recommended no one should be living on the backside. There was evidence of bedding and people sleeping in some of the tack rooms during the meet.

**Recommendations / Comments continued.....**

- A security gate needs to be installed between the kitchen emergency exit and Division Licensing Office. Kitchen staff have unfettered access to the licensing office.
- Pre-Meet inspection of barns is required prior to permitting occupancy. Access to all tack rooms and stalls is required. Locks on stalls and tack rooms must be removed prior to pre-meet inspections.
- The 2024 Pre-Meet inspection found numerous hypodermic needles and syringes, a vial containing injectable sedative, a pill bottle containing suspected marijuana and prescription medications without prescription labels on them. These items were recovered from various locations within the barns and hay sheds, some in tack rooms, overhead rails or under pallets and crevices of several hay sheds. Tack rooms had broken or missing windows, evidence of animal occupancy (*droppings, feathers and multiple dead animals*), furnishings, air mattresses, trash, equipment and other household items.
- Pre-clean the Division licensing office prior to move-in for the 2025 meet. The office is unused during the off-season and requires additional attention upon the Division's return.
- Increase stable gate/backside security due to complaints of unlicensed people accessing secure areas, complaints of alcohol consumption and fire hazards. (*Large group of unlicensed people started very large fire in hayshed to roast a pig*) (*licensee carrying alcohol from backside into the grandstand via paddock gate*)
- Prohibit personal pets, such as dogs and cats, being allowed onto the backside. A dog went after a horse and rider almost causing the rider to fall, dogs running around unleashed and constantly barking causing disturbances to horses and the horsemen.
- Increase staffing for stable gate security to record and verify equine arrivals and departures and verify paperwork. There were instances of inaccurate or non-existent vaccine records as well as missing or inaccurate information regarding horse entries and departures. (*Complaints of stable gate arm left open and stable gate unstaffed*)
- Grading/dirt work needed for the test barn walkways, stalls, and east yard prior to move-in. The test barn will need additional dirt, sand and/or rubber added at the beginning of the season and potentially throughout the race season.
- Complete required maintenance work throughout the backside and test barn to include electrical work, adequate day/night lighting, and compliance with Arapahoe County permitting requirements.
- Clean and repair bathrooms on the backside. Ensure continued cleanliness by hiring adequate staff.

#### **Recommendations / Comments continued.....**

- Internet access for the Division Licensing Office and Test Barn is needed.
- The public announcement (PA) system on the backside improved. Announcements were clear and audible. ARP created a horsemen's group text messaging app to communicate and update horsemen directly.

- Inspect all stalls for protruding or loose metal (*horses were injured due to reported stall maintenance issues causing lacerations to their legs*).
- Prior to the 2024 meet, electrical outlets were replaced/repaired on the barn exterior stall walls. Hot water tanks were replaced in several of the barns, and asphalt was installed on a portion of the roadway by the test barn leading to the track.
- Due to the end of the meet weather delay, some ARP personnel had to leave early, causing the roles of paddock judge and placing judge to be unstaffed. ARP filled these positions by adding Paula Rodgers as placing judge and Shawn DeMoney as paddock judge. Both had these additional roles licensed to them by the Division.
- Additional Veterinarian coverage needed for the 2025 Meet (*Private and State Veterinarians*)
- Bally's Arapahoe Park has been cautioned by DOR Executive Staff that a complete application be made and procedures be followed. Bally's Arapahoe Park has been advised that there should not be any expectation that there will be exceptions made for missing documents or ignored procedures in order for them to meet their deadline.
- Bally's Arapahoe Park track was not a HISA track during the live meet season 2024.

5. Consideration of envelope of dates for the 2025 Racing Season - Kelly Haralson, Interim Director and Shannon Rushton

Shannon Ruston, Executive Director of Operations/Director of Racing & General Manager at Bally's Arapahoe Park presented on 2/6/2025, a letter was submitted to Acting Executive Director Kelly Harrelson requesting dates for 2025. The live meet will consist of 30 days of racing over a 10 week period from 8/16/2025 to 10/21/2025. Racing days on Saturdays, Mondays and Tuesdays, each live race day, having nine races per car with daily post time at 2pm.

Motion made by Commissioner Ruebel to approve the envelope of dates for the 2025 racing season. A second made by Commissioner Davis.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Owners & Breeders Awards 2024 - Sanela Simic, Auditor

Sanela Simic, Divisions Auditor presented the information below:

Due for Disbursement of 2024 Awards in 2025 from O/B Escrow Account.

Thoroughbred	\$491,526.30
Quarter Horse	\$90,492.91
Arabian	\$0.00
Paint	\$0.00
Appaloosa	\$0.00
Harness	\$0.00

Mule \$0.00

**TOTAL DUE \$582,019.20**

Motion made by Commissioner Hammes to approve the disbursement of the 2024 awards for 2025 from O/B Escrow Account. A second made by Commissioner Ruebel.

Motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER:**

5. Interim Director's Report

Kelly Haralson, Interim Director mentioned that the Division is in the process of hiring a legal assistant, Veterinarian and Division Director.

6. Public Comment

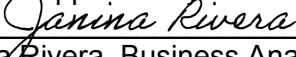
Kathy Stoker, Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association (RMQHA) asked if the Division has set dates for rule making yet.

Kelly Haralson, Interim Director responded that the Division has not set any dates as of yet.

Adjournment

The February 12, 2025 meeting of the Colorado Racing Commission was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Minutes Approved by the Commission

  
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Janina Rivera, Business Analyst Division of Racing

I certify these minutes were approved by the Commission on the 9th day of April 2025.