

Colorado Racing Commission  
July 3, 2025  
Special Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The special scheduled meeting of the Colorado Racing Commission ("Commission") was held on Thursday, July 3, 2025 via video conference provided by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM.

Members Present

Tameka Sampson, Chair  
Dr. Kjersten Davis, Vice Chair  
Jeff Ruebel, Member  
John Hammes, Member  
Dr. Lori Scott, Member

Racing Staff Present

Michael Phibbs, Interim Director of the Division of Racing Events  
David Miller, Agent in Charge  
Janina Rivera, Business Analyst  
Kelly Haralson, Compliance investigator III  
Emily Mauer, Criminal Investigator  
Emmalie Baxter, Compliance Investigator  
Sanela Simic, Auditor III  
Dania Cobos-Bejarano, Program Assistant II  
Robert Dodd, Filling in for Sarah Killeen

**DECISION ITEMS:**

**1. Approval of meeting minutes for 6/10/2025**

Interim Director Mike Phibbs stated these minutes were not available for approval. Suggested to table the minutes for the next meeting.

**2. Removal of Consideration of 2025 second meet application for Bally's at Arapahoe Park – Interim Director, Michael Phibbs.**

Interim Director, Michael Phibbs, stated the plan was to talk about the meet application approval for Bally's Arapahoe Park, but believes they are not ready. Bally's Arapahoe park does not want to withdraw the application, but is wanting the consideration of modifying the rules for timing. Interim Director Mike Phibbs asked the commission to consider to withhold discussion item #2.

Chair Sampson suggested to table discussion item #2. No motion was made.

**3. Approval request of Modification of rules 11-210 and 11-212 - Interim Director, Michael Phibbs**

Interim Director Michael Phibbs stated that Bally's Arapahoe Park requested a modification of the rules to shorten the timeframe to allow them more time to get the construction done and approved by the county and to submit a complete meet application. This, however, would shorten the timeline for everybody.

The timeline was requested as follows:

July 29, 2025 – Have the meet application done and approved.

August 12, 2025 – Allow the horsemen on the property.

September 11, 2025 – First day of racing.

This would give the Division of Racing only 14 days to set up the licensing office, reestablish technology, inspect all barns, check in horses, confirm medical records, etc.

Interim Director stated that the only items that can be completed beforehand was getting people licensed via in person in the Lakewood office and/or online. Everything else requires the Division to be physically present.

Mr. Rushton stated that 15 barns have been rough inspected and approved. And the underground wiring from the barns to the walkers has also been completed. He also stated that they are ready for final inspections for next week. However, he has not heard back in regards to the test barn. Mr. Rushton stated that there have been emails being sent back and forth about the test barn that he wasn't aware of.

Mr. Rushton stated that he has been working with CHA and Kim Oliver to change the 60 day provision to 30 days to give enough time to complete the test barn or come up with different options.

Mr. Rushton suggested that the test barn should be moved to another barn that has been approved and use that as a collection site as the test barn is taking longer due to the restroom facility in the building. The test barn requires plumbing changes to be ADA compliant.

Interim Director stated that the Division objects moving the barn to a new location because it is impractical due to the technology restraints. There is equipment that has to stay powered 24/7 and monitored, cameras, network connection, hot water for the biological materials objects.

Mr. Rushton stated that Bally's will not be a HISA track this year. The new timeline was requested by the horsemen. Mr. Rushton stated that he would need the new dates to buy Jockey's insurance policy.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis to modify the rules and accept the new timeline.  
July 11 the meet application must be submitted.

July 29 application approval.

August 12 - Horses are allowed on the track.

Sept. 11 - First day of racing.

Second by Commissioner Ruebel.

**4. Bally's Arapahoe Park Simulcast Request for 2025-2026 – Bally's Arapahoe Park Executive Director, Shannon Rushton**

Mr. Rushton stated that a letter requesting approval for simulcasting has been submitted to coincide with state statute.

Motion made by Commissioner Davis to approve the simulcast dates as submitted.

Second by Commissioner Ruebel.

**5. Interim Director's Report**

Interim Director Michael Phibbs reported that all key positions are in place. Vet staff is in line. New equipment for the team has been increased. New UTV's, new stall mats for the test barn, monitors for licensing, etc.

**6. Public Comments**

Chelsey asked what will not being a HISA track do to the simulcasting revenue?

Mr. Rushton stated that they will not be able to sell their simulcasting signal out of state and can only be provided to our state simulcasting facilities based on business climbing.

Adjournment

The July 3, 2025 meeting of the Colorado Racing Commission was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Minutes Approved by the Commission

*Dania Cobos-Bejarano*  
Dania Cobos-Bejarano, Program Assistant II

I certify these minutes were approved by the Commission on the 29th day of August 2025.