

**NEW JERSEY RACING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025 NEW MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK
SKYBOX SUITES – GRANDSTAND BUILDING – 3RD LEVEL
1 RACETRACK DR., EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY**

A public meeting of the New Jersey Racing Commission (“NJRC” or “Commission”) was held on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at New Meadowlands Racetrack in the Skybox Suites, Grandstand Building, 3rd Level located at 1 Racetrack Drive in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The following were present:

Jennifer Beck, Commissioner (virtually)
Lawrence DeMarzo, Commissioner
Arlene Quinones Perez, Esq., Commissioner
Charles E. Tomaro, Commissioner (virtually)
Michael Venuto, Commissioner (virtually)
Glen Vetrano, Commissioner
Sara Ben-David, Acting Executive Director
Levi Klinger-Christiansen, Deputy Attorney General (virtually)
Samuel Kovach-Orr, Associate Counsel, Governor’s Authorities Unit (virtually)
Kari D’Ottavio, Sr. Counsel, Office of the Attorney General (virtually)

Acting Executive Director Ben-David opened the public session of the meeting with some announcements. She advised that in addition to being conducted in person, the meeting was being live-streamed. She explained that through its website, the New Jersey Racing Commission has made a link and phone number available that members of the general public may use to attend the meeting virtually through Microsoft Teams. She also pointed out, for everyone’s awareness, that Microsoft Teams was being used to record the meeting. Minutes will be available on the Commission’s website following the Governor’s review period, as required by N.J.S.A. 5:5-22.1.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David stated that the New Jersey Racing Commission will continue to conduct in-person meetings, with virtual attendance available as an option for members of the public to utilize as well as for any Commissioner who is unable to attend in person. She thanked Racing Commission employees Nanci Reid and Trudy SanJose for their continued service as the moderator and back-up moderator. She also thanked Billy Babcock from the IT team for attending the meeting to provide any technical support the Commission may need.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2025 MEETING

Commissioner DeMarzo made a motion to approve the public and executive minutes of the May 21, 2025 Commission meeting. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion, and all other Commissioner voted yes.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2025 MEETING

Commissioner DeMarzo made a motion to approve the public and executive minutes of the June 25, 2025 Commission meeting. Commissioner Vetrano seconded the motion, and all other Commissioners voted yes except for Commissioner Venuto who abstained.

CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE OFFICIALS, POOLS, POST-TIME, PRICES, AND WAGERING FORMAT FOR THE 2025 THOROUGHBRED MEET AT THE MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK

Acting Executive Director advised that Assistant Director Salerno would be presenting item 3.

Assistant Director Salerno stated that the New Jersey Racing Commission is being asked to consider the approval of the race format and officials for the 2025 thoroughbred meet conducted by Darby Development, LLC at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Assistant Director Salerno advised that the 2025 thoroughbred meet will consist of nine days of live racing to be conducted on September 19, 20, 26, 27 as well as October 3, 4, 10, 11, and 17, 2025. The regular program will consist of six turf races daily with a post-time of 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Director Salerno stated that the department heads remain the same as those approved by the Commission for the 2024 thoroughbred meet at Meadowlands Racetrack. He further explained that the officials for the thoroughbred meet remain largely the same as last year with the only exception being the addition of Lawrence Waite to the position of Assistant Racing Secretary/Claims Clerk. Assistant Director Salerno concluded that all wager types and minimum wagering amounts, as well as takeout rates, will remain the same as in 2024.

Commissioner Beck made a motion to approve the officials, pools, post-time, prices and wagering format for the 2025 thoroughbred meet at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Commissioner Vetrano seconded the motion, and all Commissioners voted yes.

CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF A REQUEST BY NEW MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK TO CANCEL LIVE RACING ON AUGUST 16, 2025 AND AUGUST 22, 2025

Acting Executive Director Ben-David stated that Meadowlands Racetrack is seeking approval to cancel live racing on Saturday, August 16, 2025 and Friday, August 22, 2025 due to NFL pre-season games that are scheduled to take place at nearby MetLife Stadium. She advised that the Commission has approved similar requests in the past.

Commissioner DeMarzo made a motion to cancel live racing on August 16, 2025 and August 22, 2025. Commissioner Vetrano seconded the motion and asked if the dates would be made up later in the calendar.

Jason Settlemoir, General Manager of New Meadowlands Racetrack stated that the Meadowlands Racetrack had submitted additional race dates to the Commission.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David asked if there was any further discussion. There being none, all Commissioners voted yes.

CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF A REQUEST BY MONMOUTH PARK TO DISTRIBUTE THE JERSEY SHORE 6 CARRY-OVER ON JULY 20, 2025

Acting Executive Director Ben-David stated that the Pick 6 is a wager where bettors are asked to pick the horse that will finish first in each of the six races included in the contest. In certain circumstances where no one successfully selects the first-place finisher in all six races, the money in the pool can be carried over to a subsequent Pick 6 pool. She continued that until recently, *N.J.A.C. 13:70-29.52* required the carry-over to be added to the subsequent Pick 6 pool until a bettor selects the winning horses in all designated races, with distribution becoming mandatory on the closing day of the meet. Effective May 19, 2025, the Commission adopted an amendment in response to a petition for rulemaking filed by Monmouth Park. As amended, the rule now allows the carry-over to be paid on a specified date and performance, rather than on the closing day of the meet, provided the permitholder makes a written request and the request is approved by the Commission.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David advised that this is the first time the Commission is being asked to consider a request under the amended rule. The rule requires the request to be for a date that is no greater than one year from the date the request is submitted. It also requires the request to contain a justification for the distribution, an explanation of the benefit to be derived, and the intended date and performance for the distribution.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David stated that the request sought approval to pay out the carry-over on July 20, 2025, which is a date less than one year from the date the request was submitted (July 11, 2025). She further explained that regarding the justification, Mr. Heims represented in his request that "the purpose of the mandatory payout on July 20, 2025 is to cap the final day of racing on Haskell Weekend with an expanded pool." The benefit to be derived is drawing more bettors to the overall card which will increase handle to the benefit of all stakeholders. The intended date and performance were the last six races in the program on July 20, 2025.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David stated that due to timing, the request was approved subject to ratification by the Commission. She advised that the carry-over ended up being \$63,001 and as a result of the mandatory payout, Monmouth Park saw a significant increase in wagering on the Pick 6 as a result of there being more money in the pool.

Commissioner DeMarzo made a motion to ratify the approval granted to Monmouth Park to distribute the Jersey Short 6 carry-over. Commissioner Vetrano seconded the motion, and all Commissioners voted yes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

Acting Executive Director Ben-David advised that there were items in Section B of the agenda for discussion or informational purposes. Those items consisted of a breakdown in wagering on Preakness Day, May 17, 2025; Belmont Stakes Day, June 7, 2025; and the Meadowlands Pace, July 12, 2025.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David asked if anyone would like to comment or bring new business to the Commission's attention. She advised those attending virtually that they could use the "raise hand" button to be acknowledged and unmuted. There were none. She then asked if anyone appearing in person would like to address the Commission.

Nancy Grbelja asked if the two days of racing that were canceled due to the pre-season games would be made up this year as part of this year's calendar or next year. Acting Executive Director Ben-David stated that the Racing Commission is in receipt of a calendar from Meadowlands to amend its calendar for this year.

Mr. Settlemoir stated that there were stakes races that had to be rescheduled. The recently signed agreement between the SBOA of New Jersey and the New Meadowlands Racetrack was officially signed by both parties and contains a clause that both parties would meet in September to discuss the 2026 race dates.

Nancy Grbelja asked again if the dates would be made up this year to which Jason Settlemoir stated he answered the question. Commissioner Perez intervened and asked if the dates would be made up this year to which Mr. Settlemoir answered yes.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David asked if any other persons attending in person would like to be heard. Alice Allen stated that she had a presentation that she would like to show the Commission which contains her life's work. She stated that she has kept a 30-year ledger trying to help the horses. The file contains the public exhibits from the federal indictment, which was the largest sports indictment in US history. Ms. Allen stated that she is speaking for the horses that have gone unheard and for the middle-class people who fear the retribution of coming forward.

Ms. Allen stated that in the original indictment, it discusses the conspirators – the defendants known and unknown, the purchasers, the distributors, the manufacturers, and those who administered the drugs. In the trial, the unknown defendants became known. Ms. Allen stated that the horse industry is divided because of this. In the evidence are wiretaps transcripts, the cell phone transcripts, disclosed client lists, foreign accounts, and emails.

Ms. Allen stated that presidential affairs divide equine. The United States Government in the Southern District defended our country and our horses. Acting Executive Director asked for confirmation that the documents being shown were public to which Ms. Allen stated yes, they are all publicly available.

Ms. Allen supplied documentation of illegal drugs that were administered to the horses. She stated that the government has protected our horses. She continued that in federal trial, Dr. Jeffrey Vernon was a veterinarian on the United States Olympic equestrian team. He purchased \$145,000 worth of drugs. The Canadian Olympic team, he represented that federation as well. In a 5,007-page document, it lists the sales. The United States Government sent BB3 to Hong Kong laboratories, and it's a mimic EPO that aids patients, cancer patients, and kidney patients who need it to survive. It thickens the blood. Ms. Allen then referred to the Lance Armstrong story and how he never tested positive for drugs and admitted to using the Epogen. She explained it was because people around him had a voice. Horses can't talk to you, but they die, they break down, they set new world records. The laboratories couldn't test for the drug because no one realized that all of the synthetics went through in 4 hours. In the document from the Hong Kong laboratories, it states you can pick it up in the urine 27 hours out.

Ms. Allen then referred to another drug EQ1F5 (code name) which is like a morphine. It's a pain killer 1,000 times stronger than morphine. Ms. Allen explained that the document on display lists the horses that received the morphine. She feels we owe it to the sport to protect them from these types of people and this type of drugs. She stated that it doesn't matter if it's thoroughbred or standardbred because the documents list all horses, Olympic horses, Canadian teams, and U.S. team. It is owed to the horses and to people like herself to protect them.

Ms. Allen stated that the presentation means she must walk away from the things she loves the most—the horses, the good and honest people. She stated that the document was posted online, and four commissions have reached out to ask how they can help. Ms. Allen stated that the presentation was brought to the NJRC because one man in the standardbred industry agreed there was a problem, Jeff Gural. She stated that Mr. Gural believed a person like her - the person who used to call all the people and hide in the trunks of cars. That person was Aaron Hindell. She's Alice Allen.

Ms. Allen stated that the U.S. Attorney wrote the most brilliant closing statement. The statement read: "many actors in the race horse business, like the defendant, have grown indifferent to and dismissive of the notion of obtaining illegal drugs to dope these race horses for profit. Many like the defendant believe that if caught, they will have the means to bully, intimidate and pay off whoever threatens their corrupt activities."

Ms. Allen stated that she spoke on the floors in New York for 20 years, and this could have been stopped. She stated that when Fishman ran into the Commission officers and ran them over with a car, they could have taken action but didn't. Ms. Allen stated that she is the person the threats came to. She was bullied, banned, and ejected from the track for raising her right hand. She asked the Commission to read the document and know that it's a crime to purchase illegal drugs.

Ms. Allen stated in closing, for the Crime Victims Fund, there is a document filed where the monies from forfeiture are being paid to the commissions. They are named in the

document along with the pharmacists who filled the illegal prescriptions. The U.S. Attorney left it open for a third-party forfeiture for the horsemen could make a case. Those people that bullied, obtained the illegal drugs and killed the horses, they starved others out of the industry. She put the presentation together so the middle-class people wouldn't be afraid of retribution anymore. That way, they could help and their phone calls won't be ignored and they won't have to turn the other eye. She stated that she hopes it's this state that brings the unity between the thoroughbred and standardbreds, Jeff Gural, and USTA. No one knew because they didn't obtain the documents.

Ms. Allen thanked the United States of America for trying to protect the horses. She thanked three FBI agents (Tim Bergen, Bruce Turpin, and Shawn Richards) but most of all a U.S. Attorney named Sarah Mortazavi for being strong enough to present that case. She set the precedent for all.

Acting Executive Director Ben-David thanked Ms. Allen for appearing and for her presentation. She stated that we all share her passion for the sport. She stated that the information discussed is in the public eye. If there is a case to be made concerning NJRC licensees, the Commission will make it.

Ms. Allen stated that there are grooms willing to come forward. She stated they call her and send her pictures. These grooms are willing to raise their right hand. They don't want to be afraid anymore. They don't want to be banned from the racetracks for testifying. They don't want the threats. She stated it's been done, and it's all a matter of record. She stated that Aaron Hindell did a lot of work and was trusted. She stated she gets calls from across the country. She stated there is no reason for world champions to have their cars blown up or watch a man hit a horse in the eye with a hammer so his eye falls out. The vet that is licensed sews his eye in and says "don't finish better than fourth." These are things she's seen. She continued that middle-class, hard-working people can't fight the commission and the system too.

Ms. Allen explained that if a commission takes action and does the job and follows through, the industry will start rebuilding. The middle-class guys that love horses, they want to breed and race their horses, but they don't want to have to pay for illegal drugs and kill their horses. It's a tough decision for a horseman to make: to feed their children or dope their horse. No one should have to make that decision because we know which decision most people will take. It's the highest repetitive purchasers who stand in the winner's circle and get their trophy presentation and not anyone who stands in their way. They bully and intimidate. They do it to the most vulnerable creature of all—the one who can't talk.

Commissioner Perez thanked Ms. Allen for her presentation stating that it contains a lot of information. She said it is frustrating to see defendants be accused of these things and, when they are found, they tend to drag the case on for a long time, and it's not the fault of the Commission or even the attorneys who are handling the cases; it's usually the defendants that are dragging them on. So, it's nice to be able to put information so that we understand that leniency is not the best way sometimes to deal with these individuals.

Commissioner Vetrano thanked Ms. Allen for her passion and giving the voiceless a voice. It does not go unnoticed.

There being no additional comments, Acting Executive Director Ben-David asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Vetrano made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner DeMarzo seconded the motion, and all Commissioner voted yes.

ATTEST:

Sara Ben-David
Sara Ben-David, Acting Executive Director