

IDAHO STATE POLICE

Idaho State Racing Commission

A large, light gray watermark of the Idaho State Police logo is centered behind the text. The logo features a shield with a map of Idaho, the word "IDAHO" at the top, and "STATE POLICE" at the bottom.

**Strategic Plan
FY2022- FY2025**

Brad Little, Governor

Colonel Kedrick Wills, Director

September 7, 2021

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Strategic Plan FY 2022- 2025

Mission Statement

To regulate and protect the integrity of the live horse race industry in the state of Idaho. This is accomplished through licensing; regulation and supervision of all live and simulcast race meets in this state under the terms of the Horse Racing Act in Idaho Code, §54-2501-16.

Core Functions

The Idaho State Racing Commission has authority to prepare, enforce and promulgate a complete set of rules and regulations to govern race meets. Also, ensuring the individuals who participate at race meets will act in the best interest of racing as defined by racing rules. It is the duty of the Racing Commission to license, regulate and supervise all horse race meets and Pari-Mutuel activity in this state.

Vision Statement

The Idaho State Racing Commission has an important place in one of the oldest sports in this country. We recognize the horse racing industry is part of Idaho's agricultural health and economy.

To protect and uphold the integrity of the pari-mutuel sport of live and simulcast horse racing; to exert every effort which is right and proper to regulate and protect the racing and pari-mutuel industry and to preserve and enhance public confidence in fair and equitable enforcement.

The Idaho State Racing Commission will fulfill its mission through:

- * Employees, including contractual officials, who are highly trained, respected and trusted by the Commission and the public to maintain high professional standards to perform their duties.
- * Professional and fairly compensated employees working together to protect the integrity of live racing.
- * Continued strong communication with the horsemen, the racing industry and the public, detailing the actions the Commission takes to ensure fair and equitable enforcement.

KEY EXTERNAL FACTORS

The racing industry is subject to economic changes, population trends, and other factors that directly affect horse racing. These trends influence the number of new applicants, the number of licenses renewed annually, and the volume of pari-mutuel activity, which in turn, impacts the amount of revenue collected by the commission for its operations.

National concerns about the industry's ever changing trends are paramount to the economic conditions within the state, and the racing industry. The Commission strives to stay up to date on the ever changing trends.

Revenues necessary to operate the racing commission are intricately connected to the economy of the nation and state. When fluctuations in revenues occur it may warrant the development of expenditure plan alternatives.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goals of the Commission are to build public trust in the integrity of the pari-mutuel industry, to operate the Commission office as efficiently and economically as possible and to serve as a steadfast entity on which the industry and the public can depend on to ensure fair and equitable enforcement of horse racing rules in Idaho.

GOAL 1. MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF HORSE RACING IN IDAHO.

Objective 1.1 – Live Meet Association Applicants

Associations conducting race meets are operated by responsible management.

Action:

All applicants applying for a live meet license; provide background information, fingerprints and financial documentation for Commission approval.

Performance Measure:

State level FBI background checks are performed on every race meet license applicant for compliance. **Benchmark: 100%**

Objective 1.2 - Safety

Each racing association is doing everything possible within their ability to provide the spectators, the horses, and their attendants the best possible facilities it can.

Action:

Employees of the Racing Commission visit each track during live race meets to inspect, license, supervise the operations, and to regulate the races. The Commission representative will make recommendations to the associations identifying possible improvements or problem areas.

Performance Measure:

Perform a comprehensive inspection program for pari-mutuel racetracks. Through this inspection program, the Commission seeks to ensure the facilities at the racetracks and the operations comply fully with the rules of the Commission. Reports are provided to Racing Association personnel as well as the Idaho State Racing Commissioners for review/and suggestions.

Benchmark: 100%

Objective 1.3 – Owners and Trainers

Every owner and trainer seeking to enter a horse in competition is a person of good character and financially responsible.

Action:

Prior to entering a horse in the competitions, all owners and trainers must apply for a license, which includes a fingerprint based criminal history check.

Performance Measure:

Any licensees providing false information on their application may have their license suspended or revoked and could be fined by the Commission. Investigators (part-time) meet with licensees to interview and document pertinent information regarding licensee. **Benchmark: 100%**

Objective 1.4 – Race meet

Every race will represent a true competitive effort by the participating rider and horse.

Action:

Every rider and horse is physically fit to race.

Performance Measure:

Jockeys must have a physical performed prior to being licensed and must provide a doctor's release after any incident.

Performance Measure:

Horses and jockeys will submit to urine and blood tests as required by the State Vet or the Board of Stewards.

Performance Measure:

Horses are free from any forbidden medication or drugs prior to races.

Action:

No rider during the running of a race will commit any act that would make the race anything other than a true competition.

Performance Measure:

All races are monitored by State Stewards and are recorded for the fair and equitable treatment of all parties, and are scrutinized to identify any possible illegal practices. **Benchmark: 100%**

Objective 1.5 - Rules

The state statute and rules of racing are strictly enforced with the cooperation of all divisions within the Idaho State Police and officials of the Racing Commission.

Action:

Enforce rules and regulations to ensure the individuals who participate in race meets will act in accordance with the rules of racing. Implementing new rules is an ongoing effort to continually stay up to date with industry standards.

Performance Measure:

Investigate all rule infractions and sanction penalties as required for violations. Continually review IDAPA rules for improvement/updates. **Benchmark: 100%**

GOAL 2. AUDIT AND ENFORCE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF LIVE AND SIMULCAST PARI-MUTUEL OPERATIONS

Objective 2.1 – Tote Testing

Provide assurance that the totalizator system has the ability to collect, process, report and maintain reliable, accurate and timely information in accordance with the rules of the Commission.

Action:

Perform inspection and totalizator tests prior to opening of live race meets to confirm compliance.

Performance Measure:

A controlled testing of totalizator system with each new tote company to be completed a minimum of one day prior to the first race of that meeting. **Benchmark: 100%**

GOAL 3. MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE RACE INDUSTRY

Objective 3.1

Interact with other state Racing Commissions via emails and Newsletters.

Action:

Department administrators in the past have attend various state conferences and workshops to implement uniform rules of racing throughout the United States and Canada, and to enhance the integrity of racing rule enforcement. Due to the limited budget the Racing Commission operates from, travel to conferences out of state has not occurred.

Performance Measure:

At this time no staff holds seats on national committees for problem solving and information sharing on industry regulation concerns.

Action:

Maintain membership with the Racing Commissioners International (RCI) for online availability to provide more consistent and thorough regulation by searching licenses and racing rule violations in other racing jurisdictions.

Performance Measure:

Uphold the integrity of the pari-mutuel industry through an informed membership through RCI, by encouraging uniform regulations through various enforcement programs and projects. Stewards utilize RCI database, considering history of rule violations from other states when conducting hearings. **Benchmark: 100%**

GOAL 4. PROMOTE CLEAR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC AND IDAHO LAWMAKERS.

Objective 4.1:

Develop and present a unified, well-organized image to the public and legislature. Continue to provide the public with opportunities for input regarding the integrity of rule enforcement at Commission meetings, as well as participating in other opportunities to interact with horseman's groups, tracks and breed associations as needed.

Action:

Full time staff of the Commission, the ISP Lieutenant Colonel, staff from the Department of Financial Management, and as well as representation from the

Governor's Office, have meet with legislators, representatives of various track associations, horseman groups and breed associations.

Performance Measure:

Document meetings attended, and attendance for all open meetings. At quarterly Commission meeting, place agenda item of PUBLIC COMMENT to encourage input from racing industry.

Benchmark: 100%

GOAL 5. CHART THE FINANCIAL FUTURE OF THE IDAHO STATE RACING COMMISSION.

Objective 5.1:

Develop a three (3) year plan addressing the revenue issue at the Idaho State Racing Commission. The Racing Commission is totally self funded and as such, needs to be prepared in the event of a downturn in the economy.

Action:

Identify and categorize the funding sources and their future levels of cash flow.

Performance Measure:

Present a cash flow, expense budget for three (3) years to the Idaho State Racing Commission during the fall of 2021.

Objective 5.2:

Operate the Idaho State Racing Commission in the most cost effective manner.

Action:

Thoroughly analyze all current expense categories for possible savings.

Performance Measure:

Incorporate findings into a three (3) year plan.

Objective 5.3:

Explore possible additional funding sources.

Action:

Research and consider the revenue results from the following areas:

- Increased revenue from existing legislated sources.
- Legislative changes to provide reserve funding.

- Increased revenue from sources used by other state Racing Commissions.

Performance Measure:

Develop a three (3) year plan with action items from this study.

Objective 5:4

Licensing Freedom Act of 2019

Action:

No actions have been taken at this time regarding the Licensing Freedom Act of 2019. A large percentage of the funding for the Racing Commission comes from Occupational Licenses as well as the Simulcast License fee which is collected when sites hold the televised races for bettors to wager on at their on-track facilities.

Performance Measure:

The Commission struggles from time to time with revenue. However, in the past Legislative session, a simple change to the ADW distribution was passed and this should help stabilize the Commission funding issue much better. The horse industry will continue to look at other states funding streams to see if there may possibly be more the entire industry could do.

BREAKDOWN OF 2020 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

<u>TYPE OF LICENSES</u>	<u># OF LICENSES</u>
Admissions	1
Announcer	2
Asst. Starter	9
Clerk of Scales/Clocker/Identifier	5
Concessionaire	1
Concession Employees	4
Emergency Medical Technician	6
Exercise/Grooms	86
Hair Testing – Initial	75
Horsemen’s Bookkeeper	3
Jockey/Apprentice Jockey	42
Maintenance Employees	3
Miscellaneous ¹	258
Mutuel Employees	84
Officials	21
Office Staff/Racing Secretary	6
Owners	232
Owner/Trainer	95
Outrider	9
Paddock Judge	1
Photographer & Video Operator	6
Pony Person	28
Stable Names	20
Starter	6
Track Security	3
Trainer	39
Tote Employees	5
<u>Veterinarian & Vet Assistants</u>	8
TOTAL	1,013

No denials of Licensure; No complaints against Licensees; Disciplinary Actions were only taken against 3 licensees, and were fines. All fines were paid in full, no other actions were taken.

¹ Miscellaneous: Fingerprint Fees (152) and Fines (2)