

IDAHO STATE POLICE

Idaho State Racing Commission

The background of the page features a large, light gray shield logo of the Idaho State Police. The shield contains the word "IDAHO" at the top, a map of Idaho in the center, and the words "STATE POLICE" along the bottom edge.

**Strategic Plan
FY2026 - FY2029**

Brad Little, Governor

Colonel Bill Gardiner, Director

August 18, 2025

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Idaho State Racing Commission

Strategic Plan FY 2026- 2029

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 as staff attends virtual meetings with the Association of Racing Commissioners International and the newly created Federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority. This newly created Federal agency will eventually have an effect on our horse racing but at this time, we don't have a great idea of what these changes will look like.

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 - 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 multiple times during live race meets to inspect, license, oversee the operations, and to regulate the races per the Idaho State Racing Commission Statutes and Rules. The Commission representatives will make recommendations to the associations identifying possible improvements or problem areas.

Performance Measure:

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

Benchmark: 100%**Number of inspections completed this period to date: 5 of 5****Number of suggested corrections in progress to date: 5 of 5****Number of corrections completed to date: 5 of 5****Objective 1.2 – Owners and Trainers**

Every owner and trainer seeking to enter a horse in competition meets the minimum financial /legal standards established by the Racing Commission.

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 based on a 5-year cycle or anyone who has never been licensed in our state.

Performance Measure:

Any licensees providing false information on their application may have their license suspended or revoked and could be fined by the Commission. Commission staff meets with licensees to interview and document pertinent information regarding licensee.

Benchmark: 100%**Number of applications received this period to date: 1134****Number of applications approved this period to date: 1134****Number of applicants fingerprinted to date: 207****Objective 1.3 – Race meet**

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

Action:

Every rider and horse meets the minimum physical standards established by the Racing Commission.

Performance Measure:

Jockeys must have a physical performed prior to being licensed and must provide a doctor's release after any incident. Jockey's will provide the required documentation to the Racing Commission prior to racing.

Benchmark: 100%

Number of jockeys participating during this period: 59

Number of physicals or doctor's releases received to date: 59

Performance Measure:

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

Number of jockeys to date: 59

Number of Jockey samples requested or received to date: 0

Performance Measure:

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

Horses screened this period to date: 418

Horses screened with Hair Testing to date: 85

Horses testing positive for nonpermitted medications to date: 8

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%

Number of races completed to date: 180

Number of races monitored by stewards to date: 180

Number of races with inquiries not requiring further review to date: 0

Objective 1.4 - 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%

Number of infractions noted to date: 11 of 11

Number of sanctions noted to date: 11 of 11

Penalties assessed to date: 11 of 11

GOAL 2. PROMOTE CLEAR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

Objective 2.1:

Develop and present a unified, well-organized image to the public. 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, Attorney General's Office, and as well as representation from the Governor's Office, have attended public meetings, with representatives of various track associations, horseman groups and breed associations.

Performance Measure:

The Commission holds quarterly and special open meetings for the public to attend. All meetings are made available to attend virtually as well as posted on the Commission website and Town Hall Idaho. At quarterly Commission meetings, PUBLIC COMMENTS regarding items on the agenda is added to encourage input from racing industry.

Benchmark: 100%

Number of meetings to date: 5 of 5

Number of meetings advertised and/or open to the public for comment: 5 of 5

Educational events with Associations held during this period: 4 of 4

GOAL 3. CHART THE FINANCIAL FUTURE OF THE IDAHO STATE RACING COMMISSION.

Objective 3.1:

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

Action:

Thoroughly analyze all current expense categories for possible savings as well as, exploring other ideas for future revenue.

Performance Measure:

The Commission Office located in Meridian has downsized in office space and opened a small office on the Eastern side of the state to be more available to horsemen and closer to the racetracks, as we run mostly all races in Southeastern Idaho.

Benchmark: 100%

Self-audits completed: 12 of 12

Objective 3.2:

Cyber Security Executive Order No. 2017-2

Action:

The Racing Commission is under the ISP umbrella and the two office staff personnel follow the ISP Cyber Security Policies.

Performance Measure:

Yearly, the Commission Staff participates in Cyber Security Trainings. Currently there are two full-time employees. Idaho State Racing Commission employees have access to computers both in the office and out in the field. The Commission employees use these computers to data enter Occupational Licenses. These computers are used as a “stand alone” and are not at any time joined into the ISP network. All employees working in the Commission Office are required to take the online training provided by Human Resources yearly as well as ISP’s required training.

Benchmark: 100%

Number of Employees: 3

Completed Cyber Training through the Department of Human Resources: 5 of 5

Objective 3.3:

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 fees 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. During a past Legislative session, a simple change to the ADW distribution was passed and is helping stabilize the Commission funding issue much. The horse industry continues to look at other states funding sources to see if there may possibly be other funding avenues to pursue.

Benchmark: 100%

ADW licenses reviewed and approved: 7 of 7

Simulcast licenses reviewed and approved: 1 of 1

Live Meet/ Racing Associations licenses reviewed and approved: 5 of 5

BREAKDOWN OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES CALENDAR YEAR-TO-DATE - 2024

<u>TYPE OF LICENSES</u>	<u># OF LICENSES</u>
Administration	2
Admissions	1
Announcer	2
Asst. Starter - Starter	9
Clerk of Scales/Jock's Room Custodian	3
Clocker	2
Concession Employees	1
Emergency Medical Technician	4
Fingerprinting	184
Groom	81
Horsemen's Bookkeeper	6
Jockey	54
Maintenance Employees	6
Miscellaneous ¹	23
Mutuel Employees	56
Officials/Stewards/Veterinarians	14
Owners	237
Owner/Trainer	105
Outrider/Valet	10
Paddock Judge/Identifier	3
Photographer & Video Operator	5
Pony Person	22
Racing Secretary	3
Stable Names	23
Track Security/Stall Superintendent	4
Trainer	51
Tote Employees	2
Veterinarian & Vet Assistants	13

¹ Miscellaneous: Duplicate Licenses, Add-ons and Changes to licenses.