



TxRC News Release

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Racing Commission Announces Fines, Suspensions for “Paper Trainer” Violations

AUSTIN, TX – As a result of the Texas Racing Commission’s (TxRC) continued efforts to address the issue of “paper trainers” (also known as “program trainers”) in the state’s pari-mutuel racing industry, the Lone Star Park (LSP) Board of Stewards recently issued rulings against four TxRC licensees, imposing fines ranging from \$500 to \$4,000, and suspensions ranging from 15 days to 12 months.

A “paper trainer” is a licensed trainer who, solely for the purposes of the official race program, is identified as the trainer of a horse that is actually under the control of and trained by another person, thereby misleading the wagering public and other racing participants.

The four licensees disciplined by the LSP Board of Stewards were Francisco Perez (jockey), Oscar Perez (jockey agent), Henry Uriegas Sr. (owner-trainer) and Jessica Vasquez-Lopez (owner). All parties admitted to the violation(s) and agreed to the penalties included in the rulings.

Both Francisco Perez and Oscar Perez entered into agreed settlements of \$4,000 fines and 12-month suspensions with four months probated, pending no further rule violations, for entering a horse, Last Shadow, into a race scheduled for Aug. 1, 2018, at Retama Park with Henry Uriegas Sr. listed as the trainer when, in fact, the horse was trained by Francisco Perez.

Henry Uriegas Sr. entered into a settled agreement with a \$2,500 fine and a 12-month suspension with six months probated, pending no further rule violations. Uriegas Sr. allowed a horse not in his care, custody or control, K One Cherokee, to be entered in his name for a race scheduled to be run at Retama Park on July 31, 2018. Jessica Vasquez-Lopez, the owner and actual trainer of

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K One Cherokee, was fined \$500 and suspended for 15 days for knowingly participating in the scheme.

During the term of these suspensions, all four licensees are denied access to all facilities under the jurisdiction of the Texas Racing Commission. Additional rulings related to these matters may be issued, pending further investigation.

Copies of these and all TxRC rulings are available for public download from the Texas Open Data portal [here](#).

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The Texas Racing Commission regulates and supervises pari-mutuel horse and greyhound racing pursuant to authority granted in the Texas Racing Act. The policy-making board consists of nine members. Seven members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to serve six-year terms, and two are ex officio members, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Chair of the Public Safety Commission. To effectively regulate the operations at a racetrack, Commission employees participate in the presentation and oversight of horse and greyhound racing operations throughout the year. Regulation at the racetrack involves veterinary, licensing and auditing staff, stewards and judges, and law enforcement investigators. There are approximately 7,300 active racing participants under the jurisdiction of the Racing Commission.