



**TEXAS RACING COMMISSION**  
**1801 N. Congress Avenue**  
**Austin, TX 78701**  
**(512) 833-6699**  
**customer.service@txrc.texas.gov**

November 15, 2023

To: All Occupational and Business Licensees of the Texas Racing Commission

Subject: Enforcement of the Texas Rules of Racing

The purpose of this letter is to notify all occupational and business licensees of the Texas Racing Commission that the agency will continue to prioritize compliance issues that specifically affect the welfare of human and equine athletes and the integrity of pari-mutuel wagering.

As you should be aware, business and occupation licenses are a privilege, that are conditioned on each licensee's compliance with the Texas Racing Act and Texas Rules of Racing, which the Commission is obligated to enforce.<sup>1</sup>

In the past few weeks, specific concerns have been raised regarding compliance with rules §313.45; §313.161; §313.168; §313.402; §313.404; §313.407, and the agency initiated an investigation in early September which is still underway. Accurately recording and publishing the weight of a jockey on a horse requires involvement and compliance from all levels of business and occupational licensees including, but not limited to racetrack association staff, horseman's organizations and owners and trainers of racehorses.

Safety and integrity of horseracing is a shared responsibility for all participants in Texas. Each licensee is individually responsible for complying with the statutory and regulatory requirements based on the conditions of their issued license.

A key priority for 2024 is the continuing effort to modernize the Texas Rules of Racing, beginning in January 2024. Our focus will be on specific rules that directly impact human and equine safety and integrity in pari-mutuel wagering.

The agency will publish the calendar for the 2024 Rules Committee meetings no later than the end of November 2023 to provide all constituents an opportunity to provide feedback on the changes that are proposed and adopted by the Commission. Comments on the Texas Rules of Racing are welcomed at any time and may be submitted through our website at: <https://www.txrc.texas.gov/texas-rules-of-racing>.

Sincerely,

*Amy F. Cook*

Amy F. Cook  
Executive Director  
Texas Racing Commission

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<sup>1</sup> See Texas Occupations Code § 2025.002, "the operation of a racetrack and the participation in racing are privileges, not rights, granted only by the commission by license." and 16 TAC § 311.1(c) "License Conditions. (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a license issued by the Commission is a privilege, not a right, and is conditioned on the licensee's compliance with the Act and the Rules."