



Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
August 21, 2025

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 PM on Thursday, August 21st, 2025, via Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Mission Statement:

Chair Margaret Doherty called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM, and Karen Parkman conducted roll call.

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Chair Margaret Doherty, Vice Chair Quinn Berry, Commissioners Harvey Stein, DVM, and Lindsay Fowler.

Staff: Connie Winn, Executive Director; Karen Parkman, Director of Administration, Kelly Routt, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Excused: None

APPROVAL

Meeting Agenda

Action: Approve August meeting agenda.

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Second: Commissioner Stein

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

Meeting Minutes

May 2025

Action: Approve May 2025 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Commissioner Stein

Second: Commissioner Fowler

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director's Report – Director Winn:

Executive Director Winn welcomed staff member Maleah Thom on limited hours while on family leave for the birth of a new baby. She requested all correspondence be directed through Karen Parkman during the next 2 months while Maleah is working on a limited schedule.

Director Winn reported that the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show had a successful meet with great weather and strong attendance. The Racing Testing Laboratory, stationed in Kentucky, conducted an inspection of Grants Pass Downs prior to the Southern Oregon Racing Association (SORA) meet. Grants Pass Downs also hosted the Racing Officials Accreditation Program which garnered national and international participation. Four ORC staff members and two commissioners also attended. Commissioner Fowler also participated in media coverage. The instructors were highly competent, and Grants Pass Downs received high praise. She thanked Karen Parkman for her role in hospitality and Micah Lloyd for providing IT support for the program.

The SORA race meet was very successful. At Crooked River Roundup in Prineville the races ran efficiently with favorable weather conditions.

At Tillamook County Fair the new stalls were well received. Unfortunately, inclement weather forced 6 out of 8 races to be cancelled on Day 1, but all were made up over subsequent days. Strong volunteer effort ensured full race cards during the meet.

Director Winn announced the departure of Veterinary Assistant Victoria Flores, who will be attending veterinary school in Iowa. Madeline Foy has joined the Test Barn staff as Victoria's replacement and intends to attend vet school in the future. Past commissioner Dr. Palmer will be the primary onsite veterinarian for the fall. Dr. Lombard will continue providing remote support as well. The process of finding a full-time vet is still underway, however, the State has agreed to create a new classification for the position.

Director Winn reported that new statutes will require rulemaking on license fees, fines, and wagering. Any changes to individual licenses cannot go into effect until the new database is fully operational. The Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) was signed and final approval received. The LAB is being assembled for submission to Legislative Fiscal Office, and a summary will be provided to the commission at the September meeting.

Implementation of the new database is progressing, with the first phase of testing underway.

NEW BUSINESS

Amplify Presentation – Annise Montplaisir

Annise Montplaisir, Executive Director of Amplify Horse Racing, presented on the national youth engagement program Amplify. Amplify was launched in 2020 to serve as the youth education arm of the Thoroughbred industry by connecting young people to horse racing.

Chair Doherty suggested Amplify present to state legislative committees on agriculture and education. Commissioner Stein inquired about partnership opportunities with companies such as FanDuel or NYRA Bets to produce a commercial or segment on their platforms. All

commissioners agreed that youth engagement is critical to the long-term sustainability of horse racing in Oregon and thanked Annise for her presentation.

Review and possible adoption of the following rule amendments:

- A. OAR 462-120-0055 with hearing- Defines the requirements for license renewal with background checks**
Non substantive changes to clean up the language.
- B. OAR 462-220-0040 (6)(7) - Clarifies language and updates payment cap schedule for ADWs**
- C. OAR 462-220-0030 -Simplifies application submission and changes length of time that a license is valid**
- D. OAR 462-210-0010 (15) – Adds definition of Parlay**

Action: Approval to adopt the amendments for OAR 462-120-0055, OAR 462-220-0040 (6)(7), OAR 462-2200-0030, and OAR 462-210-0010 (15).

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Second: Commissioner Stein

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0)

Discussion and possible approval to file emergency rule:

A. OAR 462-150-0010 (5)(a) Workouts; Exercise; Schooling

Director Winn explained that the Tillamook to Grants Pass scheduling gap creates compliance issues with the 30-day workout rule. She proposed a temporary extension to 45 days, which aligns with and Quarter Horse standards

Action: Approval of filing temporary rule for OAR 462-150-0010 (5)(a).

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Second: Commissioner Stein

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0)

Discussion and possible approval to begin the rulemaking process: - Micah Lloyd & Connie Winn

A. OAR 462-220-0030 Daily Fees – Online Wagering

Aligns with legislative update, updating daily operation fees from \$200 to \$225.

B. OAR 462-140-0125 Placing Test Wagers

Per recent legislation, allows official staff member (Micah Lloyd) to place test wagers as part of auditing duties.

C. OAR 462-120-0050 License Application Procedures; Requirements for Corporations and Partnerships; Stable/Assumed Name

Updates licensing fees and positions into tiers, accounting for a 2-year license.

D. OAR 462-160-0130 (4) Non-Steroid Anti-Inflammatory Drugs -discussion

Director Winn explained recent concerns with the rule requiring a 48-hour withdrawal time for NSAIDs. While the rule changed from 24 to 48 hours, the enforcement threshold (lab test levels) was not adjusted. Dr. Lombard reported that approximately 25% of horsemen administering closer to race time than allowed, creating potential fairness and enforcement issues.

Dr. Lombard clarified that lab tests only prove levels, not timing, limiting the Commission's ability to enforce the 48-hour requirement. Commissioner Stein noted this puts compliant trainers at a disadvantage. Commissioner Fowler raised legal concerns about whether an emergency rule would meet the required justification standard. DOJ Counsel Kelly Routt advised that temporary/emergency rules require showing "serious prejudice" if not enacted, and failure to meet that standard could invalidate the rule if challenged.

Action: Approval of the rule making process for OAR 462-160-0130 (4).

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Second: Commissioner Berry

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0)

Action: Approval of the rule making process for OAR 462-220-0030.

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Second: Commissioner Berry

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0)

Action: Approval of the rule making process for OAR 462-140-0125.

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Second: Commissioner Stein

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0)

Action: Approval of the rule making process for OAR 462-120-0050.

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Second: Commissioner Berry

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0)

ORC Strategic Plan Update – Director Winn

Director Winn reported that the Strategic Plan was initially launched with an updated mission and vision statement, which the Commission has already approved. Most of the current updates focus on the progress of ongoing projects, which include:

- **Assisting with passage of statutes**
- **Revamping rules and policies**
- **Facilitate online wagering forums**
- **Implementing the new licensing database**
- **Website revamp**

Director Winn confirmed that the updated plan has been submitted to all required offices, including the Governor's Office, and has received full approval. She noted that under Governor Kotek, compliance with strategic planning requirements is closely reviewed and agencies receive feedback.

Director Winn added that staff engagement in developing and refining the strategic plan has been strong.

Chair Doherty emphasized that the Strategic Plan provides a solid roadmap for the Commission's work, and Commissioners expressed appreciation for the clarity of the update.

Information Technology Update – Director Winn

Director Winn highlighted that the most significant changes to the Strategic Plan relate to the licensing database project.

Key Performance Indicators and Commission Self Evaluation

Director Winn presented the Commission's updated Key Performance Indicators, noting that the agency previously tracked five measures, however the legislature added new requirements in the legislative session that just ended.

Director Winn reported the results:

Catastrophic Injuries: The reported numbers looked worse than reality because legislators lowered the fatality threshold from the industry standard of 1.5 per 1,000 starts to 1.0 per 1,000. Under the new measure, the Commission appears in the red, though fatalities were down compared to the prior year.

Equine Drug Testing: Reporting currently shows more positive tests; Winn clarified the metric had been misapplied to all substances rather than controlled substances. Once corrected, the results will improve. Expanded testing procedures are helping identify violators.

Injuries: Only three injuries were recorded out of 1,637 starts, exceeding the target and demonstrating progress, although improved monitoring may account for more accurate reporting.

Licensing Turnaround: Times for licensing turn around are within the recommended time.

Customer Service & Stakeholder Feedback: Broad surveys showed generally high ratings, with the strongest scores from wagering partners. Lower ratings came from trainers and owners, reflecting growing pains from stricter standards. The Commission staff are working to improve communication in this area.

Winn concluded by noting that while some measures look unfavorable on paper, they reflect higher standards and expanded oversight rather than performance declines.

The discussion concluded with agreement to refine the self-evaluation process and continue working through the KPM standards with the legislature as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Randy Boden addressed the Commission, noting the ongoing challenge of communicating effectively with horsemen when changes occur. He stressed that without reliable channels, updates risk not reaching all affected parties in time. Randy praised the Commission's handling of recent changes, remarking that shifting procedures mid-season would have caused significant disruption. He highlighted the difficulty of collecting and maintaining accurate contact information, as many horsemen do not share email addresses or messages bounce back. Randy connected this issue to broader concerns about attrition in the horse racing industry, underscoring the importance of consistent communication.

Commissioner Stein suggested that text messaging could serve as a more effective tool for outreach, pointing to his own experience receiving ongoing race-related updates from other jurisdictions. Randy acknowledged that texts are sent but emphasized that many horsemen still fail to check them, reinforcing the communication barrier.

Rod Lowe raised concerns about the administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on the fair circuit. He explained that while Grants Pass provides race entries several days in advance—allowing horsemen to manage medication timing—fair meets often finalize entries only 24 hours prior. This creates difficulty with 48-hour withdrawal requirements and may contribute to medication overages. Rod stressed that this ongoing issue needs further discussion within the rulemaking process.

Mike Twiggs stated that the stewards recognize the conflict between 24-hour race entry timelines and 48-hour medication rules.

Dr. Lombard agreed that the matter warrants further review at the committee level. She indicated that the data and perspectives shared during public comments would be valuable in shaping future rulemaking and ensuring differences between fair meets and other venues are properly addressed.

Chair Doherty concluded by reiterating that this is an unresolved issue but emphasized confidence that the Commission, with input from experienced stakeholders, will move toward a rational and workable solution.

CONTESTED CASES

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The ORC entered executive session under ORS 192.660(2)(f), ORS 192.345(2), OAR 462-220-0070 regarding trade secrets for: Potential new licensees/affiliates and under ORS 192.660 (2)(i) to conduct the Executive Director's annual review.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. in person in the Josephine County Fairgrounds Arts & Crafts Bldg. and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 P.M.