

Idaho State Racing Commission



2023 Annual Report



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor of the State of Idaho
Capitol Building
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Little:

On behalf of the Idaho State Racing Commission (ISRC) I am pleased to advise you that our 2023 Annual Report has been posted on our website, www.isp.idaho.gov/racing. Pursuant to the provisions of Idaho Statute 54-2505, the ISRC submits its annual report for the 2023 racing season.

The ISRC and its staff are pleased that horse racing is recognized as an economic and recreational asset to the people of Idaho. The racing and breeding industries are a valuable sector of the state's economy and agribusiness.

We appreciate your continued support of the ISRC and the horse racing industry and look forward to working with you to address the challenges that confront horse racing while we work to strengthen its role and viability in our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nikeela', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nikeela Abrams, Chairwoman

COMMISSIONERS

The Racing Commission is comprised of three members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms. The names of the current commissioners are listed below with the ending date of each of their respective terms.

Nikeela Abrams, Chairwoman	January 2026
Scot Ludwig, Commissioner	January 2026
Matthew Woodington, Commissioner	January 2028

Pursuant to state law, the commissioners are paid \$50 for each day spent on Racing Commission business.

COMMISSION STAFF

The following individuals staff the Racing Commission:

(Vacant at this time)	Executive Director
Anisha Jones	Business Operations Manager
Ardie Noyes	TRS1- Part-time
Trina Fackrell	Licensing Clerk (PT) – Seasonal

To further assist the Commission with its regulatory responsibilities, the following individuals were hired by the Commission as part-time seasonal employees for professional and technical services during the 2023 racing season:

Dennis Elison	Deputy State Steward - Fair Circuit
Sheri Hanson	Deputy State Steward – Fair Circuit
Mandy Hillman	Deputy State Steward – Fair Circuit

Horse racing is the most thoroughly regulated of all sports. To assist the Commission in the task of supervision Commission Veterinarians are retained on a contract basis for the duration of the meets.

Dr. Scott Leibsle, DVM	State Veterinarian - Fair Circuit
Dr. Danielle Meisner, DVM	State Veterinarian – Fair Circuit

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

The Idaho State Racing Commission operates under the authority of the Idaho Horse Racing Act Title 54, Chapter 25 Idaho Code. The Commission is vested by law with full authority to prescribe the rules, regulations and conditions under which horse and simulcast racing with pari-mutuel wagering may be conducted in Idaho. The Commission also has the power to govern, direct and regulate racing in Idaho.

The Commission's primary objective is to maintain the integrity of horse racing in Idaho. This is carried out in a number of ways. Close supervision by the Commission and its representatives at the tracks insure the public and the participants:

1. that the Association conducting a race meeting is operated by responsible management;
2. that every owner and trainer seeking to enter a horse in competition is a person of good character and of financial responsibility.
3. that every horse appearing in a race is the animal that it is represented to be on the program and is carrying the correct weight as assigned by the track handicapper.
4. that every race run will represent a true competitive effort by every participating rider or horse;
5. that no rider during the running of a race, commits any act that would tend to make the race anything other than a true competitive test;
6. that every horse is physically fit to race;
7. that no one responsible for the custody of a competing animal has administered or permitted to be administered any forbidden medication to the competing animal;
8. that every racing association is doing its utmost to provide the spectator public, the animals and their attendants the best possible facilities that it can afford.

The Commission also fulfills the role of liaison, acting as the intermediary; between the various associations and the Government of Idaho.

The primary goals of the Commission are to build a strong and credible industry, to operate the Commission offices as efficiently and economically as possible and to serve as a steadfast entity on which the industry and the public can depend upon to preserve and maintain the integrity of horse racing in Idaho.

RACETRACKS AND APPROVED 2023 RACE DATES

**22 Days Requested/Awarded – 6 days Cancelled
Total Race Days for Calendar Year 2023 – 16**

Pocatello Downs (POC)

P.O. Box 2688
Pocatello, ID 83206
MAY 6, 13, 21
JUNE 23
JULY 7, 28
SEPTEMBER 10
3 Days Cancelled

Oneida County Fair Board (MAL)

P. O. Box 13
Malad, ID 83252
AUGUST 5th & 6th Rained out
AUGUST 12, 13
2 Days Cancelled

Jerome Racing (JER)

1413 S 2050 E
Gooding, ID 83330
JUNE 4, 18

Eastern Idaho Fair Board (BLK)

P.O. Box 250
Blackfoot, ID 83221
SEPTEMBER 3, 8, 9

Cassia County Fair Board (BUR)

P.O. Box 1222
Burley, ID 83318
AUGUST 16, 17

BREAKDOWN OF 2023 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

<u>TYPE OF LICENSES</u>	<u># OF LICENSES</u>
Admissions	3
Announcer	3
Asst. Starter	10
Clerk of Scales/Clocker/Identifier	4
Concession Employees	1
Emergency Medical Technician	7
Exercise/Grooms	70
Hair Testing – Initial	83
Hair Testing – Secondary	4
Horsemen’s Bookkeeper	3
Jockey/Apprentice Jockey	45
Maintenance Employees	3
Miscellaneous ¹	191
Mutuel Employees/Tote Employees	57
Officials	14
Office Staff/Racing Secretary	4
Owners	212
Owner/Trainer	92
Outrider	6
Paddock Judge/Stall Superintendent	4
Photographer & Video Operator	7
Pony Person/Valet	26
Stable Names	17
Starter	3
Track Security/Track Supervisor	4
Trainer	43
<u>Veterinarian & Vet Assistants</u>	<u>13</u>
TOTAL	924

¹ Miscellaneous: Fingerprint Fees (186) and Fines (5)

FAIR CIRCUIT STATISTICS

RACE DAYS	16
NUMBER OF RACES	123
ATTENDANCE	18,085
DAILY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	1,130
THOROUGHBRED RACES	27
QUARTER HORSE RACES	81
OTHER RACES*	15
PARI-MUTUEL HANDLE	\$277,178
DAILY AVERAGE HANDLE	\$17,324
TOTAL THOROUGHBRED HANDLE	\$64,072
TOTAL QUARTER HORSE HANDLE	\$192,683
TOTAL OTHER HANDLE*	\$20,423
TOTAL PURSES PAID**	\$833,036
TOTAL THOROUGHBRED PURSES**	\$100,825
TOTAL QUARTER HORSE PURSES**	\$657,611
TOTAL OTHER PURSES**	\$74,600
AVERAGE PURSE PER RACE**	\$6,773

*Appaloosa/Arabian/Paints

HORSE RACING STATISTICS

RACE DAYS	16
NUMBER OF RACES	123
PARI-MUTUEL HANDLE	\$277,178
DAILY AVERAGE HANDLE	\$17,324
TOTAL RETURNED TO PATRONS	\$210,721

PARI-MUTUEL DISTRIBUTION

Racing Commission	\$4,471.06
Public School Account	\$64.10
Small Track Account	\$1,385.90
Breed Account	\$1,385.90
Equine Education Account	\$64.10

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNT

The Public School Income Fund and the Equine Education Income Fund (Idaho Code 54-2513) were established by the Legislature on a sliding percentage scale in order to financially assist Idaho's Public schools.

Idaho's racetracks generated **\$64.10** in **2023** from live horse racing for the public schools. The Equine Education Fund generated **\$64.10** from live horse racing as well. Listed below are the amounts generated by each racetrack through live meet pari-mutuel wagering.

	<u>SCHOOL FUND</u>	<u>EQUINE FUND</u>
Pocatello Racing Association	\$20.48	\$20.48
Jerome County Fair Board	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cassia County Fair Board	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eastern Idaho Fair Board	\$42.27	\$42.27
Oneida County Fair Board	\$1.35	\$1.35

BREED ASSOCIATION ACCOUNT

The Breed Association Distribution Account (Idaho Code 54-2513) was established by the Idaho Legislature authorizing one half of one percent (.5%) of the daily live pari-mutuel handle be distributed quarterly to the lawfully constituted representatives of each horse breed for the betterment of the Idaho-bred horse racing industry. The Racing Commission requires an annual accounting of expenditures from these trustee-and-benefit account recipients. In **2023** this fund generated **\$1,385.91** and was distributed as follows:

Idaho Thoroughbred Association	\$320.35
Idaho Quarter Horse Association	\$963.42
Idaho Appaloosa Association	\$77.49
Idaho Paint Association	\$24.65

DISTRIBUTION OF SMALL TRACK ACCOUNT

LIVE HORSE RACING

One half of one percent (.5%) of gross daily receipts, separately stated, shall be paid to the Idaho State Racing Commission for deposit in the track distribution account, which is created in the dedicated fund for further distribution to certain Idaho racetracks, defined as follows:

- a. Recipient tracks shall be those which, during the racing year of distribution, have an average daily handle of less than sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000);
- b. Distributions to recipient tracks shall be weighted proportionately based on the number of days raced during the year of distribution.

The amount contributed by each racetrack is listed below:

Pocatello Racing Association	\$575.11
Jerome County Fair Board	\$106.72
Cassia County Fair Board	\$135.60
Eastern Idaho Fair Board	\$376.14
Oneida County Fair Board	\$192.33

The Small Track Account generated **\$1,385.90** in **2023** from **16** days of live horse racing. Each recipient received **\$86.62** per day multiplied by the number of days they had live racing. The disbursements are listed below.

Pocatello Racing Association	7 days	\$606.33
Jerome County Fair Board	2 days	\$173.24
Cassia County Fair Board	2 days	\$173.24
Eastern Idaho Fair Board	4 days	\$259.86
Oneida County Fair Board	3 days	\$173.24

SIMULCASTING STATISTICS

Simulcast races from around the country were wagered on by patrons year round at the Coeur d'Alene Event Center in Post Falls, Idaho. The figures on this page are based on a full Calendar year, January 1st thru December 31st.

SIMULCAST HORSE DAYS	245
SIMULCAST GREYHOUND DAYS	245
SIMULCAST PARI-MUTUEL HORSE	\$1,437,191.70
SIMULCAST PARI-MUTUEL GREYHOUND.....	\$171,803.90
SIMULCAST DAILY AVERAGE HANDLE	\$6,567.32
SIMULCAST TOTAL RETURNED TO BETTORS	\$1,144,842.64

SIMULCAST SITES & HANDLES

Coeur d'Alene Event Center - Post Falls	\$1,608,995.60
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SIMULCAST PARI-MUTUEL DISTRIBUTION

Racing Commission	\$28,461.90
Public School Account	\$195.60
Small Track Account	\$7,186.00
Breed Fund Account	\$7,186.00
Equine Education Fund Account	\$195.60
Kootenai County Fund	\$1,717.94
Horse Owner/Breeder Fund Account	\$859.38

SIMULCASTING FAIR TRACK'S DISTRIBUTION

Simulcasting paid one half of one percent (.5%) of the total daily pari-mutuel handle into the small track account, and the same amount into the breed account. Total amount distributed will differ from amount collected due to cut off dates for disbursements. These monies were distributed annually to the small tracks fund and quarterly to the breed associations as follows:

Pocatello Racing Association	7 days	\$3,149.62
Jerome County Fair Board	2 days.	\$899.90
Oneida County Fair Board	2 days.	\$ 899.90
Cassia County Fair Board	2 days	\$899.90
Eastern Idaho Fair Board	3 days	\$1,349.84
Total	16 days	\$7,199.16

SIMULCASTING BREED DISTRIBUTION

Thoroughbred	\$6,934.68
Quarter Horse	\$264.48
Total	\$7,199.16

SIMULCAST PURSE

Per IDAPA 11.04.02– Rules Governing Simulcasting, Rule 11.04.02.035.02 provides all responsibilities of each Applicant in order to simulcast televised races during the year. The Simulcast License facility must have in place, (f) a signed contract from a local horsemen's group. The horsemen's group must be one that meets the definition of a horsemen's group as defined in Section 54-2502, Idaho Code. The contract must not conflict with any of the provision of Sections 3001 through 3007 of Title 15 of the United States Code or any other federal laws. During calendar year **2023**, Coeur d'Alene Racing, LP forwarded **\$64,934.86** to the Commission for deposit into the interest-bearing purse account. 5 months of additional interest of **\$251.22** was added to the above amount for a total of **\$65,186.08** being forwarded from the Commission to the horsemen's group to enhance the live races. Due to a change in the Statewide accounting system, there is still an issue receiving the June thru December 2023 interest from the State Treasurer's Office. Once this is received it will be forwarded to the Horsemen's group and this page will be updated.

ADVANCE DEPOSIT WAGERING

Governor Kempthorne signed House Bill 374 on April 23rd, 2003 which amended the existing law to clarify advance deposit wagering on horse racing. This law requires a source market fee of 10% of the wagered handle to be paid to the Idaho State Racing Commission for further disbursement. In March of 2021, Governor Little signed SB 1178 into law which amended the existing law to provide for the retention of a percentage of advance deposit wagering moneys by the Idaho State Racing Commission for racing administration. Advance Deposit Wagering generated a total handle of **\$11,792,996.57**.

TVG/ODS	\$7,142,792.20
CHD/Twin Spires/United Tote	\$3,472,392.50
Xpress-Bet	\$1,159,784.57
DATT/Day at the Track	\$4,545.80
Am-West Entertainment	\$13,481.50

Racing Commission	\$170,998.45
Small Track Account	\$53,068.48
Breed Fund Account	\$53,068.48
Public School Fund	\$53,068.48
Live Meet Purse Enhancement	\$424,547.88
Simulcast Facility Enhancement	\$318,410.91
Track Expenses	\$106,136.97

Advance Deposit Wagers Disbursements

<i>Track</i>	<i>Small Track</i>	<i>Purses Enhancement</i>	<i>Track Expenses</i>	<i>Simulcast Tracks</i>
Jerome	\$6,633.56	\$65,051.69	\$13,267.12	N/A
Pocatello	\$23,217.46	\$181,459.98	\$46,434.92	N/A
Malad	\$6,633.56	\$51,356.60	\$13,267.12	N/A
Burley	\$6,633.56	\$41,085.28	\$13,267.12	N/A
Blackfoot	\$9,950.34	\$85,594.33	\$19,900.68	N/A
Post Falls	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$318,410.91

Advance Deposit Wagers Breed Distribution

Thoroughbred	\$44,976.22
Quarter Horse	\$7,611.68
Appaloosa	\$480.59

CALENDAR YEAR 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

In March 2005, HB 85aa relating to reports of the Idaho State Racing Commission amended section 54-2505, Idaho Code, to clarify the content of the annual report. The annual report shall be submitted to the Governor's Office on or before the thirty-first day of March each year and shall cover the activities of the commission, including the financial report of the commission and a financial summary of licensees subject to section 54-2508, Idaho Code, and organizations of licensees defined in section 54-2502(3), Idaho Code. The information on this page has been assembled by asking the various racing associations to provide us with their revenue and expenditure information and presenting it here.

Track	Revenue	Expenditures	Profit / Loss
Coeur d'Alene Greyhound Park	\$1,118,884.00	\$1,590,299.00	-\$471,415.00
Jerome Racing	\$108,012.80	\$111,484.05	-\$3,471.25
Oneida County Fair Board	\$125,813.16	\$141,736.75	-\$15,923.59
Cassia County Fair Board	\$90,103.74	\$106,919.51	-\$16,815.27
Pocatello Downs	\$1,125,465.27	\$1,066,055.50	\$59,409.17
Eastern Idaho Fair Board	\$213,922.00	\$176,114.00	\$37,808.00