

BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO STATE RACING COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF RACE APPEAL OF
LICENSEE RODOLFO G. VALLES (ID #33090)
OF THE RUIDOSO DOWNS BOARD OF STEWARDS'
DECISION FOR RACE #15 CONDUCTED ON
JUNE 27, 2026, AT THE RUIDOSO DOWNS MEET
CONDUCTED AT THE DOWNS AT ALBUQUERQUE**

2026-COMM-13

DECISION AND ORDER

THIS MATTER came before the New Mexico Racing Commission (the Commission) at its special meeting held on July 2, 2026, regarding the race review appeal by licensee Rodolfo G. Valles (hereinafter “Respondent”), trainer of the horse “Bett the Limit”. Respondent appeals the decision of the Ruidoso Downs at Albuquerque Board of Stewards concerning the 15th race on June 27, 2026, in which the Stewards lodged an inquiry and a jockey filed an objection regarding the actions of the # 10 horse, “Bett the Limit”. The Stewards disqualified “Bett the Limit” and placed her in 2nd place for causing interference in the stretch.

After hearing the presentations of Respondent, represented by attorney Mr. Daniel Marquez, and Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards, viewing the video replays of the race and reviewing the record, and deliberating a quorum of the Commission voted unanimously in open session to overturn the Stewards’ decision to disqualify “Bett the Limit” and place it from 1st to 2nd. Pursuant to the Horse Racing Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 60-1A-1 through -30, the Commission states the following:

1. The Commission's Rules of the Race require that "[w]hen the way is clear in a race, a horse may be ridden to any part of the course, but if any horse swerves, or is ridden to either side, so as to interfere with, impede or intimidate any other horse, it is a foul." See 15.2.5.13(E)(3)(a) NMAC;

2. “The offending horse may be disqualified, if in the opinion of the stewards, the

foul altered the finish of the race, regardless of whether the foul was accidental, willful or the result of careless riding.” See 15.2.5.13(E)(3)(b) NMAC;

3. “In a straightaway race, every horse must maintain position as nearly as possible in the lane in which it starts. If a horse is ridden, drifts or swerves out of its lane in such a manner that it interferes with, impedes or intimidates another horse, it is a foul and may result in the disqualification of the offending horse.” See 15.2.5.13(E)(3)(d) NMAC;

4. The Commission’s review of the video replay of the race revealed that there were issues right out of the starting gate where the # 8 veered out into the #9 which then caused the #10 horse to turn inward. However, the Commission determined that later on in the race, the # 10 did not play a part in the interference with the #9. There was a path for the #9 to move forward. However, the jockey for the #9 did not take that path when it was available, instead choosing to alter course and go to the inside. The actions of the # 10 did not cause interference with the #9 and thus the #10 did not cause the #9 to alter course and lose ground.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the decision of the Ruidoso Downs Board of Stewards is overturned and, therefore, the final results of the 15th race held on June 27, 2026, at the Ruidoso Downs race meet held at the Downs at Albuquerque should be as follows:

Place	Horse #	Horse’s Name
1st	10	Bett the Limit
2nd	9	Expensive Toro
3rd	6	Shes a Cowboys Fire
4th	3	Suzes Relentless
5th	4	Cr Angelas Dynasty

6th	2	Fireball Honey
7th	8	Cowboy in Flight
8th	1	Singles Famous Eagle
9th	7	Staggeringcowboy
10th	5	Ready to Win

This Decision and Order shall be served upon Respondent in accordance with law.

Pursuant to Rule 1-075 NMRA, a person aggrieved by a final decision or order of an agency may appeal the decision to the state district court by filing a petition for writ of certiorari with proof of service within thirty (30) days of the filing of this Decision and Order.



Billy Smith
Chairman, New Mexico Racing Commission

Date: July 2, 2026