

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 309, June 18, 1948 ]**

**AN ACT TO REGULATE HORSE-RACING IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *The Commission on Races.*—The supervision and regulation of horse-races in the Philippines shall be vested in a Commission on Races, to consist of a chairman and four members, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of Congress for such term as the President may determine and who shall be removable at his pleasure. The Chairman shall receive a salary of twelve thousand pesos *per annum*, and each member shall be entitled to a per diem of sixty pesos for each day of race and for attendance at meetings of the Commission, the number of meetings for which each attending member shall be compensated not to exceed two a week. For administrative purposes, the Commission shall be under the supervision and control of the Department of the Interior.

SEC. 2. *Powers and duties.*—The Commission on Races shall, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, have the power to prescribe additional rules and regulations not inconsistent herewith to govern the operation of race-tracks and the conduct of horse-racing. It shall be its duty to enforce the laws, rules and regulations relating to horse-races and to approve all rules and regulations issued by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office or any other entity affecting all horse-races held by them; to require that race-tracks be properly constructed and maintained; that adequate sanitary accommodations be provided in the tracks, grandstands, stables and other structures of racing clubs; that there be an equipped emergency clinic for the care and treatment of injuries and ailments of jockeys and track personnel; it shall prohibit the use of improper devices, drugs, stimulants or other means, so as to artificially enhance the speed of horses or materially harm their condition; it shall have supervision over all race-track or racing club officials or employees authorized or required to be appointed under this Act and over all horse-races, whether in connection with sweepstakes or otherwise, authorized to be held by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office or any other entity; and it shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties, as may hereafter be prescribed by law or regulations.

SEC. 3. *Racing license.*—It shall be unlawful for any person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity to hold or conduct any horse-racing, wherein betting in any form is allowed, unless duly licensed therefor by the Commission on Races. Every license issued shall specify the person, race-track, racing club, or entity to which the same is issued, the place, enclosure or track where the races are to be held, and the days upon which the same will be permitted. Such license may be suspended or revoked by the Commission on Races for any just cause.

SEC. 4. *Racing days.*—Private individuals and entities duly licensed by the Commission on Races may hold horse races on Sundays not reserved under this Act, on twenty-four Saturdays as may be determined by the said Commission, and on legal holidays except Thursday and Friday of Holy Week, July fourth, commonly known as Independence Day, and December thirtieth, commonly known as Rizal Day. The second Sunday and the first Saturday afternoon of each month shall be reserved for races held by the Philippine Anti-Tuberculosis Society. The fourth Sunday of February, April, June, August, October and the third Sunday of December shall be reserved for races held by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The fourth Sunday of January, May, July, and September and the second Saturday afternoon of January, April, July, and October shall be reserved for races held by the White Cross, Inc. The fourth Sunday of March shall also be reserved for the national race, commonly known as the Grand Derby Race, held by the Philippine Anti-Tuberculosis Society. Other Saturday afternoons shall be reserved for races authorized by the President of the Philippines for charitable, relief or civic purposes.

SEC 5. *Racing officials.*—No private individual or entity may employ any jockey, starter, weigher or any other official performing duties directly connected with the running of races, unless such person or track official has been duly licensed by the Commission on Races. Such license shall be obtained from the Commission yearly and shall, however, be subject to withdrawal or revocation in any case where the Commission shall have reason to believe that any of the aforesaid persons is incompetent, or is guilty of any dishonest or fraudulent practice, or has violated any law, rule or regulation on horse-racing. Charitable, relief, or civic organizations authorized to hold races may employ their own personnel to manage said races.

SEC. 6. *Record of tickets sold.*—No person, race-track, racing club, nor any other entity holding horse-races the crossings of which on any race day exceed fifty thousand pesos, shall be allowed to hold races, unless such person, race-track, racing club, or entity is provided with an automatic, electrically-operated public indicator system and ticket-selling machines, by means of which every ticket purchased on every horse in any race, shall be automatically and instantaneously recorded by electrical impulse on a prominently-displayed bulletin board, each figure, letter, or symbol of which shall be readable from a distance. However, any such person, race-track, racing club, or entity may, upon proper application, be provisionally licensed by the Commission on Races to hold horse-races even without the required automatic electric totalizator: *Provided*, That it shall provide itself with mechanical or other devices by which every ticket purchased on every horse in any race shall be recorded on a prominently displayed bulletin board readable from a distance in lieu of the required automatic electric totalizator which shall be subject to the approval of the Commission on Races after they have been tested and found by the Commission to be satisfactory: *And provided, further*, That such person, race-track, racing club, or entity shall acquire and install within its premises the required automatic electric totalizator within such period as may be determined by the Commission but not beyond June thirty, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, and failure to comply with this requirement shall cause the cancellation of their respective licenses.

SEC. 7. *Official starters.*—Every person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity holding horse-racing shall appoint official starters for the races. The stewards of the day shall designate a starter from among those appointed by the club to officiate in each race.

SEC. 8. *Stewards and judges.*—There shall be at least three stewards on each racing day, who may also act as the judges of finish. They shall have the necessary powers to supervise the conduct of the races, and to enforce the rules and regulations applicable on all questions and matters arising during the racing day. It shall be their duty to determine and decide the win, place, and show horses in each race; to render the decision in all events in the order the winning horses shall have crossed the tape line, and in case of closely contested events as shown by the photo-finish picture, which in all such cases shall be taken, to apply and to enforce the penalties provided against offending jockeys, trainers, horse owners, track employees, or other persons, who in any way perform duties connected with the races; and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission on Races.

SEC. 9. *Handicappers.*—Every person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity holding horse-races shall employ at least one handicapper. It shall be the duty of the handicappers to keep a complete and up-to-date record of all registered horses, their owners, color, height, and such other characteristics as will aid in their proper identification, the particular group or class to which each horse belongs, together with the weight each carried in the previous races participated in. The handicappers shall prepare the program of races in accordance with such rules and regulations as the Commission on Races may prescribe. Such program shall, however, be subject to the approval of the said Commission before it can be published as the official program of the person, race-track, racing club, or entity concerned.

SEC. 10. *Field inspectors.*—The Commission on Races shall appoint the necessary field inspectors to watch the events during each racing-day. They shall be assigned at various places throughout the race-track. It shall be their duty to carefully observe and detect anomalies and irregularities of any nature that may be committed during the progress of a race, or at the starting or finishing of a race; and to detect any fraudulent or dishonest deals, transactions or acts that may be committed in the race tracks. They shall report immediately any such anomalies, irregularities or fraudulent or dishonest acts, which they may discover to the stewards of the day, who shall promptly take such action as the circumstances may warrant. Their salaries or compensation shall be fixed by the Commission subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 11. *Track auditors and checkers.*—For the purpose of supervising and verifying the accuracy of reports of any person, race-track, racing club, or any other entity holding races, with respect to the totalizator receipts or the total amount of wager made on each racing event, the dividends awarded for winning horses, whether win, place, or show on each event, and other matters referring the financial computations or statements, the Commission on Races shall appoint such number of auditing officers and checkers as may be necessary to be placed in the offices and tracks of the person, race-track, racing club, or entity concerned. It shall be the duty of said auditing officers and checkers to report to the Commission any irregularities or erroneous computations, which they may discover in connection with reports on the totalizator sales or the total sales of wager tickets, or the dividends awarded on each racing event. Their salaries or rate of compensation shall be fixed by the Commission, subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 12. *Jockeys.*—No person, race-track, racing club, nor any other entity holding