



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
DETROIT

RICHARD S. KALM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**In the matter of:**

HORSEMAN'S SIMULCAST  
PURSE ACCOUNT

To: Michigan Horseman's Benevolent Protective Association  
Michigan Harness Horseman's Association

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**Order Directing Transfer of HBPA Thoroughbred Horsemen's Simulcast  
Purse Accounts to MHHA Horsemen's Simulcast Purse Account.**

In 2016, the Horse Racing Law was amended to add § 19a. Section 19a addressed the scenario when a track license is surrendered or when a licensed track is closed. On April 5, 2018, Hazel Park Raceway surrendered its race meeting license and track license.

Section 19a of the Horse Racing Law of 1995, MCL 431.319a, provides as follows:

If a track license is surrendered, revoked, or escrowed, or a licensed track is closed, the racing commissioner shall order the horsemen's purse pool money from the track be transferred to a depository designated by a race meeting licensee on written direction of the affected certified horsemen's organization regardless of whether there was racing at the race meeting licensee's location during the previous year. The money shall be transferred to the horsemen's simulcast purse account at any licensed racetrack in this state where the affected certified horsemen's organization subsequently obtains a written contract for live horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering. If the affected certified horsemen's organization does not enter into a written contract for live horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering at a track in this state within 12 months after the date when the horsemen's simulcast purse account money can be transferred under this section, the money must be equally divided between the horsemen's simulcast purse accounts at the licensed tracks in this state conducting pari-mutuel wagering on the results of horse races. The racing commissioner may rescind or modify any existing escrow orders to carry out this section.

In accordance with § 19a, an order was issued on May 29, 2018, by the Executive Director freezing all distributions from the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) simulcast purse account and prohibited any distributions from the HBPA horsemen's purse account.

As noted, § 19a provides that the money must be transferred to the horsemen's simulcast purse account. That action was completed in accordance with the Executive Director's order. Additionally, § 19a provides that the money must be equally divided between horsemen's simulcast purse accounts if the affected certified horsemen's organization does not obtain a written contract for live horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering. That action has not been completed as required by statute.

In the State of Michigan there is only one licensed track conducting pari-mutuel wagering on the results of horse races. That 2019 race meeting license was issued to John Carlo, Peter Battista, and Margaret Zayti Partnership, d/b/a Northville Downs. Northville Downs operates under a contract with the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association (MHHA). Northville Downs under § 19 of the Act pays the contractually agreed upon net commission generated at its race meeting to MHHA as the site-specific horsemen's simulcast purse account.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the HBPA thoroughbred horsemen's purse accounts at PNC account nos. xxxxxx4448 and xxxxxx3699 are to be transferred as soon as practicable but within 14-days of this order to the MHHA horsemen's simulcast purse account.



Richard S. Kalm, Executive Director  
Michigan Gaming Control Board

April 8, 2019  
Date