



# State of Indiana Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Mitchell E. Daniels, Governor

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## **Indiana Commission Imposes Out of Competition Penalties**

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission issued a suspension of three and one-half years to trainer Jesus Gonzales and a suspension of eighteen months to trainer James Garrison for positive tests of the drug zilpaterol. The decisions were made at the Commission's public meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. The penalties, proposed by Commission Executive Director, Joe Gorajec, were the result of settlement agreements between the trainers and Commission staff.

Horses trained by Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Garrison were sampled at a training center outside Indianapolis in May of 2011. Three horses in Mr. Gonzales' stable and one of Mr. Garrison's horses, all Quarter Horses, tested positive for zilpaterol.

Zilpaterol hydrochloride is a Beta-2 agonist drug licensed in Mexico and South Africa as a feed additive for cattle of slaughter age. Zilpaterol is a relatively new product and is manufactured by the same company that manufactures ractopamine.

According to the Association of Racing Commissioners International's (RCI) ruling database, the two Indiana suspensions are the longest ever imposed for a Beta-2 agonist. It is also the first zilpaterol suspension in North America which conforms to the RCI recently reclassified penalty guideline – which recommends a minimum one year suspension.

Indiana has one of the most extensive out of competition testing programs in the U.S. and routinely tests horses stabled at its two race tracks, and at off-track training centers and farms. While some states limit testing to blood doping agents such as Epogen, Indiana also tests for Beta-2 agonist, such as ractopamine and zilpaterol, and anabolic steroids that are not FDA approved for use in equines.

Testing was conducted on more horses in Indiana during 2011 than all of its neighboring states – Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky – combined.

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