The owners of Ruidoso Downs and the Ruidoso Horse Sale company (AARD) have invested in this iconic track to create a racing and sales environment that will provide fairness, stability, and integrity for all who race, buy and sell here. In our first two years we set a new standard for equitable participation at Ruidoso Downs. Now in our third year, we will continue to build upon that foundation of success.

We have added new stakes, expanded our filly and mare program, and focused our aged horse races to allow for full participation all summer long. Our AQHA Day at the Races on August 15th is an effort to provide for regional racing opportunities and a day to focus on the AQHA program that New Mexico will fully support again in 2020.

AARD has worked closely with the New Mexico Racing Commission (NMRC) to perform out of competition testing, created the first full time canine enforcement unit focused on equine substances, brought in the AQHA Integrity Team, added physical and legal barriers to illegal activity, and added personnel to enforce the rules. We will also start a pre-race inspection program in 2020. We believe these measures will to create a more level playing field for racing’s stakeholders and help to prevent catastrophic losses on the track. The last two years’ of increases in handle and participation indicate we are on the right track.

Continuing in 2020, AARD will continue to invest resources to level the playing field and will work with in-state and out-of-state entities to strengthen our regional and national industry. New medication rules and policies are constantly being developed that will expose wrongdoing and punish perpetrators.

The attached rules of participation have been developed by AARD in close cooperation with leading authorities on the subject, and with NMRC, and will be enforced upon all Ruidoso Downs racing participants. Please take the time to read carefully the attached documents.

We cordially and enthusiastically invite all the racing stakeholders to join us in 2020 for the 72nd year of racing in Ruidoso. We look forward to seeing you here.

Sincerely,

Stan Sigman      Johnny Trotter      Narciso “Chico” Flores   Jeff True

And all the staff and employees of Ruidoso Downs
2020 Policies and Procedures for Ruidoso Downs Racing

1. Per NMAC rule (15.2.6.9 (J)), any race horse stabled at Ruidoso Downs, any horse with papers in the Ruidoso racing office, and any horse nominated to stakes race (whether stabled on grounds or not) will be subject to Out of Competition Testing (OOCT) by licensed NMRC personnel at any time.

2. Any horse which tests positive for a prohibited substance pursuant to OOCT (including any Class I or II drug, any blood or gene doping agents, clenbuterol, or any androgenic-steroidal agents as defined by the ARCI Uniform Classification Guidelines) will be put on the Stewards List for no less than 60 days and will only be considered for entry pending the outcome of further dispositive testing, (per NMMAC 15.2.6.9). NMRC rules provide for a zero-tolerance for Albuterol and Clenbuterol in post-race and out of competition testing.

3. Any trainer with more than 3 OOCT positives for any of the above named substances within a 12 month period may be subject to exclusion from Ruidoso Downs.

4. All horses qualifying to a graded stakes race conducted at Ruidoso Downs will be subject to post race testing and OOCT tests of blood, urine or hair performed by the NMRC.

5. No horse will be eligible to compete in a stakes final, consolation or time trial event that has tested positive for any prohibited substance since its arrival to Ruidoso, or within 45 days of entry for such a race.

6. Any top-ten qualifier to a Grade 1 stakes event which becomes ineligible to enter the final will be replaced by the next fastest qualifier(s) per the conditions of the race.

7. Any horse entered or nominated to a stakes race at Ruidoso Downs will be subject to OOCT at any time at any location where the horse is stabled. In the event of a positive test for a prohibited substance, such horse is subject to being scratched, if entered, or deemed ineligible.

8. All horses competing in time trials must be in the Ruidoso Stable area no later than ten (10) days prior to the race and all qualifiers must remain inside the Ruidoso stable enclosure through the running of the finals.

9. Owners or trainers have the right to refuse testing of any horse and will forfeit the opportunity to race that horse at Ruidoso Downs as a result.

10. Any licensed trainer of record which has a horse under his/her care which tests positive for a prohibited substance anywhere will be subject to removal from the track in addition to any disciplinary action taken by NMRC.

11. Any licensed horseman (owner, trainer, jockey, veterinarian) which has been
subject to a disciplinary action related to prohibited substances by any recognized authority in any jurisdiction may be subject to additional scrutiny at Ruidoso Downs and may be refused entry to the grounds at Ruidoso Downs.

12. All horses entered to run in any race at AARD are subject to pre-race inspection by AARD officials.

13. All horsemen, as a condition for participating in racing at Ruidoso Downs, will be required to sign and submit the Acknowledgment of Conditions for Stabling of Horses (see below) with their Stall Application and adhere to the Ruidoso Gate Entry Policy.