

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK**

RULING #302

DATE: December 1, 2025

TO: Santiago Echenique

DOB: 01/06/1978

PERMIT #: 80258- Trainer

The Stewards hereby impose the following penalty:

Industrial Laboratories reported sample #E698906 taken from the horse "Sammich Me" which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 6<sup>th</sup> race on Monday, October 20, 2025, did contain D-Desmethyl-cis-tramadol confirmed in urine. D-Desmethyl-cis-tramadol is a class 2 drugs carrying a B penalty.

Mr. Echenique waived his right to a hearing and elected not to send a split sample. The Board of Stewards concludes that Mr. Echenique has violated section 178-1-49.4.a.2 of the Thoroughbred Racing Rule, 178 C.S.R.1.

Based on the guidelines set forth in table 178-1 of the Thoroughbred Racing Rules and considering mitigating circumstances, the Board of Stewards hereby conclude that Mr. Echenique will not be suspended, will not assess a fine and will receive zero points.

The horse "Sammich Me" is disqualified from all purse monies, and the purse is to be redistributed as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup>) Z Dancer
- 2<sup>nd</sup>) Monje Solaia
- 3<sup>rd</sup>) Klimtster
- 4<sup>th</sup>) Bengal Cat

The horseman's bookkeeper is requested to make the necessary adjustments.

*All fines are to be paid within seven (7) days of imposition as per West Virginia Rule of Racing 178-1-8.5.N. You have the right to appeal this ruling to the Racing Commission. Your appeal must be received in the Commission Office within 20 days of your receipt of the ruling and must include a security fee in the amount of \$500.00.*

W But Smith  
Chief Steward  
P: 304-387-8309  
Will And  
Steward

Philip Reidenbach  
Steward

BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK  
RULING

RULING #303

DATE: 11/30/2025

NAME: Melinda Sanders

DOB: 12/11/1973

PERMIT: # 78709 Owner/Trainer

The Board of Stewards hereby impose the following:

Owner/Trainer Melinda Sanders is hereby restored to good standing.

*All fines imposed by the stewards shall be paid to the Racing Commission within 7 days after the ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered by the Stewards, per WV Rule of Racing number 178-1-8.5.n.*

*You have the right to appeal this ruling to the Racing Commission. Your appeal must be received in the Commission Office within 20 days of your receipt of the ruling and must include a security fee in the amount of \$500.00.*

W. Bert Smith  
Chief Steward  
P: 304-387-8309

Melinda Sanders  
Steward

Philip Steedmanick  
Steward

BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK  
RULING

RULING #304

DATE: 12/02/2025

NAME: Moises Valdez

DOB: 10/21/1988

PERMIT: # 81148 Trainer

The Board of Stewards hereby impose the following penalty:

Trainer Moises Valdez is hereby fined two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollars for violation of WV Rule of Racing 178-1-26.3.g. "Each trainer is responsible for presenting his or her horse and being present in the paddock at a time appointed before post time of the race in which the horse is entered."

Mr. Valdez scratched the horse "Face Abarrio" which was scheduled to run in the 5<sup>th</sup> race on Monday, December 1, 2025.

*All fines imposed by the stewards shall be paid to the Racing Commission within 7 days after the ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered by the Stewards, per WV Rule of Racing number 178-1-8.5.n.*

*You have the right to appeal this ruling to the Racing Commission. Your appeal must be received in the Commission Office within 20 days of your receipt of the ruling and must include a security fee in the amount of \$500.00.*

W. Det. Sm.  
Chief Steward  
P: 304-387-8309  
Will Chads  
Steward

Philip Neolennard  
Steward

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK**

**RULING #305**

**DATE: December 3, 2025**

**TO: Geraldine Rodak**

**DOB: 01/22/1953**

**PERMIT #: 81872- Trainer**

The Stewards hereby impose the following penalty:

Industrial Laboratories reported sample #E699022 taken from the horse "Market of Stocks" which finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 4<sup>th</sup> race on Monday, November 3, 2025, did contain Dexamethasone and Trichlormethiazide both confirmed in blood. Both medications are class 4 drugs carrying a C penalty.

Ms. Rodak waived her right to a hearing and elected not to send a split sample. The Board of Stewards concludes that Ms. Rodak has violated section 178-1-49.4.b of the Thoroughbred Racing Rule, 178 C.S.R.1. This medication/prohibited substance violation is the permit holder's first violation in a 365-day period for medication/prohibited substance carrying a C penalty. The permit holder has accumulated zero (0) points under the multiple medication violation point system prior to this ruling. The points assessed for this medication/prohibited substance violation is one (1) point, giving a total of one (1) point pursuant to section 178-1-49.3.m of the Thoroughbred Racing Rules.

Based on the guidelines set forth in table 178-1 of the Thoroughbred Racing Rules and consideration of both drugs being a single violation, the Board of Stewards hereby fine Ms. Rodak one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars.

The horse "Market of Stocks" is disqualified from all purse monies, and the purse is to be redistributed as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup>) Kaiyas Song
- 2<sup>nd</sup>) Save the Flag
- 3<sup>rd</sup>) Prussian Blue
- 4<sup>th</sup>) Hop to a Decision
- 5<sup>th</sup>) Sonho de Verao
- 6<sup>th</sup>) Honour's Choice
- 7<sup>th</sup>) La Panda
- 8<sup>th</sup>) Cindy's Song

The horseman's bookkeeper is requested to make the necessary adjustments.

*All fines are to be paid within seven (7) days of imposition as per West Virginia Rule of Racing 178-1-8.5.N. You have the right to appeal this ruling to the Racing Commission. Your appeal must be received in the Commission Office within 20 days of your receipt of the ruling and must include a security fee in the amount of \$500.00.*

W. Paul Smart  
Chief Steward  
P: 304-387-8309

W. Paul Smart  
Steward

Philip Heslerwick  
Steward

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS

## MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK

### RULING

RULING #306

DATE: 12/02/2025

NAME: Moises Valdez

DOB: 10/21/1988

PERMIT: # 81148 Trainer

The Stewards hereby impose the following:

West Virginia Racing Commission hereby rescinds ruling number 271 issued on 10/15/2025 to trainer Moises Valdez, as it was issued in error.

*All fines imposed by the stewards shall be paid to the Racing Commission within 7 days after the ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered by the Stewards, per WV Rule of Racing number 178-1-8.5.n.*

*You have the right to appeal this ruling to the Racing Commission. Your appeal must be received in the Commission Office within 20 days of your receipt of the ruling and must include a security fee in the amount of \$500.00.*

W. Bret Smith

Chief Steward  
304-387-8309

Mark Under

Steward

Philip Kidder  
Steward

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK**  
**RULING**

RULING # 307

DATE: 12/09/2025

TO: Karl Meeks

DOB: 11/06/1955

PERMIT # 77182- Owner/Trainer

The Stewards hereby impose the following penalty:

Following a hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025, the Stewards hereby conclude that Owner/Trainer Karl Meeks has violated WV Rules of Racing:

# 178-1-24-11.d. "...has engaged in any fraud or misrepresentation in connection with racing, breeding, and/or Pari-mutuel wagering;"

# 178-124.11.dd "...has misrepresented or attempted to misrepresent facts in connection with the sale of a horse or other matter pertaining to the racing or the registration of a thoroughbred."

# 178-1-24.11.gg "...has engaged in conduct unbecoming or detrimental to the best interests of racing."

Mr. Meeks has engaged in fraud, misrepresentation, and conduct unbecoming regarding the transfer of ownership of thoroughbred racehorses.

Mr. Meeks attended the hearing telephonically and was represented by Jennifer Johnson who attended in person.

Mr. Meeks is hereby suspended three hundred sixty-five (365) days, beginning Tuesday, December 9, 2025 through and including Tuesday, December 8, 2026.

Additionally, Mr. Meeks is hereby fined five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars.

*All fines imposed by the stewards shall be paid to the Racing Commission within 7 days after the ruling is issued, unless otherwise ordered by the Stewards, per WV Rule of Racing number 178-1-8.5.n.*

*You have the right to appeal this ruling to the Racing Commission. Your appeal must be received in the Commission Office within 20 days of your receipt of the ruling and must include a security fee in the amount of \$500.00.*

W. But. Smith  
Chief Steward  
P: 304-387-8309

Mark Andes  
Steward

Philip Koenenreick  
Steward

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**MOUNTAINEER RACETRACK**

**RULING #308**

**DATE: December 22, 2025**

**TO: Fernando O. Vergara**

**DOB: 04/06/1953**

**PERMIT #: 84516- Trainer**

The Stewards hereby impose the following penalty:

Industrial Laboratories reported sample #E699172 taken from the horse "Erlan" which finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 5<sup>th</sup> race on Monday, December 1, 2025, did contain Phenylbutazone confirmed in blood (1.24 mg/ml) at the (0.3 mc/ml) threshold as well as Flunixin confirmed in blood (4.89 ng/ml) at the (3 ng/ml) threshold. Phenylbutazone and Flunixin are both class 4 drugs carrying a stacking fine only C penalty.

Mr. Vergara waived his right to a hearing and elected not to send a split sample. The Board of Stewards concludes that Mr. Vergara has violated section 178-1-49.6.c.3 of the Thoroughbred Racing Rule, 178 C.S.R.1

Based on the guidelines set forth in table 178-1 of the Thoroughbred Racing Rules, the Board of Stewards hereby fine Mr. Vergara one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars.

*All fines are to be paid within seven (7) days of imposition as per West Virginia Rule of Racing 178-1-8.5.N.  
You have the right to appeal this ruling to the Racing Commission. Your appeal must be received in the Commission Office within 20 days of your receipt of the ruling and must include a security fee in the amount of \$500.00.*

  
W. Brett Smith  
Chief Steward  
P: 304-387-8309