



ZIA PARK LIVE MEET TO OPEN OCTOBER 5

(Hobbs, NM – September 15, 2020) The impact of COVID-19 on the racing industry did not spare the planned 2020 live race meet at Zia Park which was originally scheduled to commence September 21. Due to the ongoing shutdown of its casino operation since March 16, and significantly reduced purse funds, the New Mexico Racing Commission approved a reduction in Zia Park’s live racing calendar from 54 to 36 dates with the meet running from Monday, October 5 through Wednesday, December 23.

The track will now operate on a three day a week racing schedule (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) with a 12 noon (Mountain) post time. Currently on-track attendance and simulcasting will not be permitted but will be evaluated in the future based on safety protocols. In the event casino operations resume by November 1, Zia Park will add one racing date to each of the final four weeks of its 2020 season. Overnight purses are projected to be approximately \$95,000 per day with the first four races of each card will quarter horse races with the final six races featuring thoroughbreds.

The first condition book covering the first 12 race dates (through October 28) is now available at <https://www.equibase.com/premium/eqbHorsemenAreaDownload.cfm?processAsForm=Y>. Due to the consolidated racing calendar and limited purse funds, the Hobbs America Futurity and Derby Quarter Horse stakes have been cancelled for 2020 with all nomination fees for those events to be refunded. The stakes schedule will also be abbreviated and feature only state bred races – with the annual New Mexico Classics to be raced over two days – Monday, November 9 for Quarter Horses and Wednesday, November 11 for Thoroughbreds. Horsemen are reminded that registration certificates are due to the racing office by 4 p.m. on Friday, September 25 in order to establish a “zero date” for entries.

“This year has been a roller coaster to date and while our 2020 season will be shortened, we are glad to be able to provide the New Mexico racing industry with a needed bridge in terms of racing opportunities and stabling,” said Zia Park Vice President and General Manager Bill Belcher.

Horsemen and racing participants are encouraged to go to www.ziaparkcasino.com/racing for safety protocols to be implemented for the upcoming race meet.