

74-8813. Organization licenses to conduct races. (a) A nonprofit organization may apply to the commission for an organization license to conduct horse races or an organization license to conduct greyhound races, or both such licenses. In addition, an organization license may authorize the licensee to construct or own a racetrack facility if so provided by the commission. The application for an organization license shall be filed with the commission at a time and place prescribed by rules and regulations of the commission. The application shall specify the days when and the exact location where it proposes to conduct such races and shall be in a form and include such information as the commission prescribes. A nonrefundable application fee in the form of a certified check or bank draft shall accompany the application. Except as provided pursuant to K.S.A. 74-8814, and amendments thereto, such fee shall be \$5,000 for each application. If the application fee is insufficient to pay the reasonable expenses of processing the application and investigating the applicant's qualifications for licensure, the commission shall require the applicant to pay to the commission, at such times and in such form as required by the commission, any additional amounts necessary to pay such expenses. No license shall be issued to an applicant until the applicant has paid such additional amounts in full, and such amounts shall not be refundable except to the extent that they exceed the actual expenses of processing the application and investigating the applicant's qualifications for licensure.

(b) If an applicant for an organization license is proposing to construct a racetrack facility, such applicant, at the time of submitting the application, shall deposit with the commission, in such form as prescribed by rules and regulations of the commission, the sum of: (1) \$500,000, if the number of racing days applied for in a racing season is 150 days or more; (2) \$250,000, if the number of racing days applied for is less than 150 days; or (3) a lesser sum established by the commission, if the applicant meets the qualifications set forth in subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) of K.S.A. 74-8814, and amendments thereto, or if the applicant will be conducting races only on the state fairgrounds. Only one such deposit shall be required for a dual racetrack facility. The executive director shall remit any deposit received pursuant to this subsection to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the racing applicant deposit fund created by K.S.A. 74-8828, and amendments thereto. If the application is denied by the commission, the deposit, and any interest accrued thereon, shall be refunded to the applicant. If the license is granted by the commission in accordance with the terms of the application or other terms satisfactory to the applicant, the deposit, and any interest accrued thereon, shall be refunded to the licensee upon completion of the racetrack facility in accordance with the terms of the license. If the licensee fails to complete the racetrack facility in accordance with the terms of the license, the deposit, and any interest accrued thereon, shall be forfeited by the applicant.

(c) To qualify for an organization license to conduct horse or greyhound races:

(1) The applicant shall be a bona fide, nonprofit organization which, if applicable, meets the requirements of subsection (d);
 (2) the applicant shall have, either by itself or through contractual relationships with other persons or businesses approved by the commission, the financial capability, manpower and technical expertise, as determined by the commission, to properly conduct horse races or greyhound races, or both, and, if applicable, to operate a parimutuel wagering system;

(3) if the applicant is proposing to construct a racetrack facility, the applicant shall submit detailed plans for the construction of such facility, including the means and source of financing such construction and operation, sufficient to convince the commission that such plans are feasible;

(4) submit for commission approval a written copy of each contract and agreement which the applicant proposes to enter into, including all those listed in subsection (n), which contracts and agreements shall conform to the restrictions placed thereon by subsections (n), (o) and (p);

(5) the applicant shall propose to conduct races within only one county, and in such county the majority of the qualified electors have approved either: (A) The constitutional amendment permitting the conduct of horse and dog races and parimutuel wagering thereon; or (B) a proposition permitting horse and dog races and parimutuel wagering thereon within the boundaries of such county;

(6) no director, officer, employee or agent of the applicant shall have been convicted of any of the following in any court of any state or of the United States or shall have been adjudicated in the last five years in any such court of committing as a juvenile an act which, if committed by an adult, would constitute any of the following: (A) Fixing of horse or greyhound races; (B) illegal gambling activity; (C) illegal sale or possession of any controlled substance; (D) operation of any illegal business; (E) repeated acts of violence; or (F) any felony;

(7) no director or officer of the applicant shall be addicted to, and a user of, alcohol or a controlled substance; and

(8) no director or officer of the applicant shall have failed to meet any monetary or tax obligation to the federal government or to any state or local government, whether or not relating to the conduct or operation of a race meet held in this state or any other jurisdiction.

(d) To qualify for an organization license to conduct horse or greyhound races, a nonprofit organization, other than a fair association, a horsemen's nonprofit organization or a nonprofit organization conducting races only on the state fair grounds, shall:

(1) Distribute all of its net earnings from the conduct of horse and greyhound races, other than that portion of the net earnings which is necessary to satisfy the debt service obligations, not otherwise deducted from net earnings, of an organization licensee owning the racetrack facility or that portion of the net earnings which is set aside as reasonable reserves for future improvement, maintenance and repair of the racetrack facility owned by the organization licensee, only to organizations, other than itself, which: (A) Have been exempted from the payment of federal income taxes pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as in effect July 1, 1987, (B) are domiciled in this state and (C) expend the moneys so distributed only within this state;

(2) distribute not more than 25% of such net earnings to any one such organization in any calendar year;

(3) not engage in, and have no officer, director or member who engages in, any prohibited transaction, as defined by section 503(b) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as in effect July 1, 1987; and

(4) have no officer, director or member who is not a bona fide resident of this state.

(e) Within 30 days after the date specified for filing, the commission shall examine each application for an organization license for compliance with the provisions of this act and rules and regulations of the commission. If any application does not comply with the provisions of this act or rules and regulations of the commission, the application may be rejected or the commission may direct the applicant to comply with the provisions of this act or rules and regulations of the commission within a reasonable time, as determined by the commission. Upon proof by the applicant of compliance, the commission may reconsider the application. If an application is found to be in compliance and the commission finds that the issuance of the license would be within the best interests of horse and greyhound racing within this state from the standpoint of both the public interest and the horse or greyhound industry, as determined solely within the discretion of the commission, the commission may issue an organization license to the applicant. The commission shall approve the issuance of organization licenses for a period established by the commission but not to exceed 25 years. Such license may provide that during its term it constitutes an exclusive license within a radius of the location specified in the license, as determined by the commission. No racing of any kind regulated by this act shall be conducted by any other person within the territory covered by such exclusive license without the written consent of the licensee. For each license issued, the commission shall specify the location, type, time and date of all races and race meetings which the commission has approved for the licensee to conduct. The license shall be issued upon receipt of the license fee and the furnishing of a surety bond or other financial security approved by the commission, conditioned on, and in an amount determined by the commission as sufficient to pay, the licensee's potential financial liability for unpaid taxes, purses and distribution of parimutuel winnings and breakage. No organization license shall be transferred to any other organization or entity.

(f) When considering the granting of organization licenses or racing days between two or more competing applicants, the commission shall give consideration to the following factors:

(1) The character, reputation, experience and financial stability of those persons within the applicant organizations who will be supervising the conduct of the races and parimutuel wagering for the organization;

(2) the quality of the racing facilities and adjoining accommodations;

(3) the amount of revenue that can reasonably be expected to be generated from state and local taxes, the economic impact for the respective horse or greyhound breeding industries in Kansas and the indirect economic benefit to the surrounding area, in the determination of which economic benefit the commission shall solicit written recommendations from all interested parties in the surrounding area;

(4) the location of the race meetings in relation to the principal centers of population and the effect of such centers on the ability of the organizations to sustain a financially sound racing operation; and

(5) testimony from interested parties at public hearings to be conducted in the geographic areas where the applicants would be conducting their race meetings.

(g) Except as otherwise provided pursuant to K.S.A. 74-8814, and amendments thereto, each organization licensee shall pay a license fee in the amount of \$200 for each day of racing approved by the commission. Such fees shall be paid at such times and by such means as prescribed by rules and regulations of the commission. The commission may authorize the state treasurer to refund from the state racing fund a fee paid for any racing day which was canceled with advance notice to and with the approval of the commission.

(h) Organization licenses may apply to changes in approved race meetings or dates for additional race meetings or dates as needed throughout the terms of their licenses. Application shall be made upon forms furnished by the commission and shall contain or be accompanied by such information as the commission prescribes. Upon approval by the commission, the organization licensee shall pay an additional license fee for any race days in excess of the number originally approved and included in the calculation of the initial license fee.

(i) All organization licenses shall be reviewed annually by the commission to determine if the licensee is complying with the provisions of this act and rules and regulations of the commission and following such proposed plans and operating procedures as were approved by the commission. The commission may review an organization license more often than annually upon its own initiative or upon the request of any interested party. The commission shall require each organization licensee, other than a fair association, or horsemen's nonprofit organization, to file annually with the commission a certified financial audit of the licensee by an independent certified public accountant, which audit shall be open to inspection by the public, and may require an organization licensee to provide any other information necessary for the commission to conduct the annual or periodic review.

(j) Subject to the provisions of subsection (k), the commission, in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act, may suspend or revoke an organization license or may impose a civil fine not exceeding \$5,000, or may both suspend such license and impose such fine, for each of the following violations by a licensee:

- (1) One or more violations, or a pattern of repeated violations, of the provisions of this act or rules and regulations of the commission;
- (2) failure to follow one or more provisions of the licensee's plans for the financing, construction or operation of a racetrack facility as submitted to and approved by the commission;
- (3) failure to maintain compliance with the requirements of subsection (c) or (d), if applicable, for the initial issuance of an organization license;
- (4) failure to properly maintain or to make available to the commission such financial and other records sufficient to permit the commission to verify the licensee's nonprofit status and compliance with the provisions of this act or rules and regulations of the commission;
- (5) providing to the commission any information material to the issuance, maintenance or renewal of the licensee's license knowing such information to be false or misleading;

(6) failure to meet the licensee's financial obligations incurred in connection with the conduct of a race meeting; or

(7) a violation of K.S.A. 74-8833, and amendments thereto, or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to that section.

(k) Prior to suspension or revocation of a license pursuant to subsection (j), the commission shall give written notice of the reason therefor in detail to the organization licensee and to all facility owner and facility manager licensees with whom the organization licensee is doing business. Upon receipt of such notice by all of such licensees, the organization licensee shall have 30 days in which to cure the alleged violation, if it can be cured. If the commission finds that the violation has not been cured upon expiration of the 30 days, or upon a later deadline granted by the commission, or if the commission finds that the alleged violation is of such a nature that it cannot be cured, the commission shall proceed to suspend or revoke the license pursuant to subsection (j). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude the commission from imposing a fine pursuant to subsection (j) even if the violation is cured within 30 days or such other period as provided by the commission.

(l) Prior to the expiration of an organization license, the organization may apply to the commission for renewal of such license. The renewal application shall be in a form and include such information as the commission prescribes. The commission shall grant such renewal if the organization meets all of the qualifications required for an initial license. The commission may charge a fee for the processing of the renewal application not to exceed the application fee authorized for an initial license.

(m) Once an organization license has been issued, no person thereafter and during the term of such license shall in any manner become the owner or holder, directly or indirectly, of any shares of stock or certificates or other evidence of ownership or become a director or officer of such organization licensee without first having obtained the written approval of the commission.

(n) An organization licensee shall submit to the commission for approval a copy of each contract and agreement which the organization licensee proposes to enter into and any proposed modification of any such contract or agreement, including but not limited to those involving:

- (1) Any person to be employed by the organization licensee;
- (2) any person supplying goods and services to the organization licensee, including management, consulting or other professional services;
- (3) any lease of facilities, including real estate or equipment or other personal property; or
- (4) the operation of any concession within or adjacent to the racetrack facility.

The commission shall reject any such contract or agreement which violates any provision of this act or rules and regulations of the commission, which provides for payment of money or other valuable consideration which is clearly in excess of the fair market value of the goods, services or facilities being purchased or leased or which, in the case of a contract or agreement with a facility owner licensee or a facility manager licensee, would not protect the organization licensee from incurring losses due to contractual liability.

(o) Organization licensees shall not by lease, contract, agreement, understanding or arrangement of any kind grant, assign or turn over to any person the parimutuel system of wagering described in K.S.A. 74-8819, and amendments thereto, or the operation and conduct of any horse or greyhound race to which such wagering applies, but this subsection shall not prohibit the organization licensee from contracting with and compensating others for providing services in connection with the financing, acquisition, construction, equipping, maintenance and management of the racetrack facility; the hiring and training of personnel; the promotion of the facility; operation and conduct of a simulcast race displayed by a simulcasting licensee; parimutuel wagering at racetrack facilities; and parimutuel wagering at off-track wagering and intertrack wagering facilities in other jurisdictions to which live races conducted by the organization licensee are simulcast.

(p) An organization licensee shall not in any manner permit a person other than such licensee to have a share, percentage or proportion of money received from parimutuel wagering at the racetrack facility except as specifically set forth in this act, except that:

- (1) A facility owner licensee may receive gross percentage rental fees under a lease if all terms of the lease are disclosed to the commission and such lease is approved by the commission;
- (2) a person who has contracted with an organization licensee to provide one or more of the services permitted by subsection (o) may receive compensation in the form of a percentage of the money received from parimutuel wagering if such contract is approved by the commission and such person is licensed as a facility manager; and
- (3) a person who has contracted with a simulcasting licensee to allow such licensee to display a simulcast race conducted by such person may receive compensation in the form of a percentage of or a fee deducted from the money received by the licensee from parimutuel wagers placed on such race if such contract is filed with the commission.

(q) Directors or officers of an organization licensee are not liable in a civil action for damages arising from their acts or omissions when acting as individual directors or officers, or as a board as a whole, of a nonprofit organization conducting races pursuant to this act, unless such conduct constitutes willful or wanton misconduct or intentionally tortious conduct, but only to the extent the directors and officers are not required to be insured by law or are not otherwise insured against such acts or omissions. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the liability of an organization licensee for damages in a civil action caused by the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of its directors or officers, and a director's or officer's negligence or wrongful act or omission, while acting as a director or officer, shall be imputed to the organization licensee for the purpose of apportioning liability for damages to a third party pursuant to K.S.A. 60-258a, and amendments thereto.

(r) If an applicant for an organization license proposes to construct a racetrack facility and the commission determines that such license should be issued to the applicant, the commission shall issue to the applicant an organization license conditioned on the submission by the licensee to the commission, within a period of time prescribed by the commission, of a commitment for financing the construction of the racetrack facility by a financial institution or other source, subject to approval by the commission. If such commitment is not submitted within the period of time originally prescribed by the commission or such additional time as authorized by the commission, the license shall expire at the end of such period.

(s) If an organization licensee's license authorizes the construction of a dual racetrack facility, such license shall be conditioned on the completion of such facility within a time specified by the commission. If, within the time specified by the commission, the licensee has not constructed a dual racetrack facility in accordance with the plans submitted to the commission pursuant to subsection (c)(3), the commission, in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act, shall:

- (1) Impose upon the licensee a civil fine equal to 5% of the total parimutuel pools for all races held at the licensee's facility on and after the date that racing with parimutuel wagering is first conducted at such facility and until the date that construction of the dual racetrack facility is completed and horse racing has begun; and
- (2) revoke the licensee's license unless the licensee demonstrates reasonable cause for the failure to complete the facility.

(t) Any license granted an organization licensee to conduct races at a dual racetrack facility shall be conditioned on the organization

licensee's conducting live horse races on not less than 20% of the annual racing days granted the licensee by the commission. If an organization licensee fails to comply with such condition, the commission may revoke the organization licensee's license unless the licensee demonstrates reasonable justification for the failure.

(u) The refusal to renew an organization license shall be in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act and shall be subject to review under the Kansas judicial review act.

(v) The grant or denial of an original organization license shall not be subject to the Kansas administrative procedure act. Such grant or denial shall be a matter to be determined in the sole discretion of the commission, whose decision shall be final upon the grant of a license to one of two or more competing applicants without the necessity of a hearing on the denial of a license to each other competing applicant. Any action for judicial review of such decision shall be by appeal to the supreme court in accordance with the Kansas judicial review act, except that the scope of review shall be limited to whether the action of the commission was arbitrary or capricious or constituted an abuse of discretion. All competing applicants for the organization license shall be parties to such appeal. Any such appeal shall have priority over other cases except those having statutory priority.

(w) The commission may adopt rules and regulations regulating crossover employment between organization licensees and facility manager licensees and facility owner licensees.

History: L. 1987, ch. 112, § 13; L. 1988, ch. 316, § 2; L. 1988, ch. 317, § 1; L. 1988, ch. 318, § 1; L. 1988, ch. 319, § 1; L. 1992, ch. 27, § 5; L. 1992, ch. 286, § 5; L. 1994, ch. 146, § 5; L. 1996, ch. 262, § 4; L. 2001, ch. 5, § 342; L. 2010, ch. 17, § 191; July 1.