

# Wyoming Gaming Regulatory Overview

Wyoming Gaming Commission | [gaming.wyo.gov](http://gaming.wyo.gov) | 307.265.4015

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## The Wyoming Gaming Commission

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The Wyoming Gaming Commission (WGC) is the state agency responsible for authorizing, licensing, and regulating all lawful gaming and pari-mutuel activity in Wyoming. It operates under a defined statutory framework, publishes rules and permit procedures publicly, and maintains ongoing financial reporting across all licensed operators.

Active gaming categories regulated by the WGC include:

- Pari-mutuel racing and wagering (live and historic)
- Historic Horse Racing (HHR) terminals
- Online sports wagering
- Skill-based amusement games

The Commission is actively expanding its regulatory scope — current rulemaking includes new Skill-Based Amusement Games standards — reflecting a state posture of deliberate, managed gaming growth.

## Historic Horse Racing (HHR)

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HHR is the most commercially significant gaming category in Wyoming's pari-mutuel framework. It allows a permitted facility to operate slot-equivalent gaming terminals under existing pari-mutuel statutes — without requiring separate casino legislation.

### How It Works

Players wager on anonymized horse races that have already been run. Each terminal displays visual handicapping data — post positions, odds, race conditions — allowing players to select their picks before a brief race replay. The horses, jockeys, trainers, dates, and locations are obscured to comply with Wyoming's pari-mutuel requirements.

Pools are pari-mutuel: all losing wagers accumulate until a player correctly selects the order of finish across multiple races in a single play. An auto-select feature ("Auto-Cap") defaults to odds-based horse selection for faster play, broadening the product's appeal.

The player experience mirrors a slot machine. The revenue model mirrors one too — continuous terminal handle on a house-edge structure — but it operates entirely within Wyoming's existing pari-mutuel authorization.

### Active Operators

Three operators are currently licensed for HHR in Wyoming, each filing monthly and annual revenue reports with the WGC:

- 307 Horse Racing

- Wyoming Downs
- Wyoming Horse Racing

*Annual and monthly revenue reports for all three operators are publicly available at [gaming.wyo.gov](http://gaming.wyo.gov) — providing direct, state-verified market performance data through 2025.*

## Pari-Mutuel Event Types

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Wyoming's authorized pari-mutuel event categories are broader than traditional horse racing. Under Wyoming Statutes § 11-25-102, qualifying events include:

- Quarter horse, thoroughbred, and other approved horse racing
- Harness racing
- Cutter and chariot racing
- Chuckwagon racing
- Professional roping events
- Simulcasting of live and historic events

This statutory breadth is significant. Live pari-mutuel event days — including rodeo, roping, and Western heritage events — serve a dual purpose: they function as authentic entertainment programming and they satisfy the WGC's requirement for qualifying live event days, which is what unlocks simulcasting and HHR terminal permits.

A facility that programs Western events is simultaneously building a destination and meeting the regulatory threshold for year-round terminal gaming revenue. The two are structurally linked under Wyoming law.

## Online Sports Wagering

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Wyoming authorized online sports wagering ahead of most states, and the WGC administers an active OSW permit program with multiple licensed operators. OSW does not require a physical gaming facility, but the category's presence in Wyoming's regulatory framework is relevant context: it demonstrates a state that has consistently moved toward gaming expansion across multiple product types over the past several years.

## Permitting & County Approval

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The WGC operates a permit-based system. Operators apply directly to the Commission under published rules — no new legislation is required to open a pari-mutuel or HHR facility. Applications, enabling statutes, and current rules are available at [gaming.wyo.gov/pari-mutuel/applications](http://gaming.wyo.gov/pari-mutuel/applications).

One statutory requirement to note: off-track and simulcast wagering conducted away from the primary permitted premises requires approval from the board of county commissioners in the applicable county. This is a standard local-approval step built into the permitting timeline, not a legislative hurdle.

*WGC staff can be contacted directly at 307.265.4015 to discuss operator-specific permitting questions prior to application.*

## **WGC Commission Staff — Direct Contact**

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All prospective bidders and operators are encouraged to contact the Wyoming Gaming Commission directly with gaming-related questions. The following staff members are aware of the Gateway East and Gateway West sale and are available to answer questions regarding licensing, permitting, HHR authorization, and pari-mutuel operations:

*Nicholas Larramendy — Executive Director*

*Michael Steinberg — Deputy Director, Special Agent Supervisor & Gaming Compliance*

*Phone: 307.265.4015 | Email: [wpmc@wyo.gov](mailto:wpmc@wyo.gov) | [gaming.wyo.gov](http://gaming.wyo.gov)*

## **Important Notice Regarding Gaming Consultation**

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Prospective bidders should be aware that Eric Nelson is subject to a non-compete agreement that restricts his ability to assist or consult with any potential buyer on gaming-related matters.

Exception: The non-compete does not apply to rodeo and rodeo simulcasting.

*All gaming questions — including those related to HHR licensing, pari-mutuel permitting, simulcasting authorization, and online sports wagering — should be directed to the Wyoming Gaming Commission at the contact information above.*