



At the January 24, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Arizona Racing Commission (Commission), the Commission voted to deny the continuation of the Monarch Content Management, LLC (Monarch) simulcast signals to any Arizona racing permittees and their additional wagering facilities, which includes off-track betting sites across the state and telephone wagering, known as Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW).

The Commission took this action, effective immediately (January 24, 2020), due to Monarch's failure to comply with recently enacted statute A.R.S. § 5-112(U), which mandates that simulcast providers, such as Monarch, offer their signal to all Arizona commercial racing permittees and their additional wagering facilities.

The Commission's decision only affects the Monarch simulcast signal. All other approved simulcast signals and associated wagering in Arizona remain unaffected and will continue uninterrupted. The Commission's action to disapprove the Monarch signal remains in effect until the Commission receives, reviews and approves simulcast agreements in accordance with Arizona's new law.

Ongoing efforts are being made to resolve this matter and the Arizona Department of Gaming Racing Division will provide new information as it becomes available.

References:

- 15 U.S Code § 3004(a)(3)
- Arizona Revised Statutes § 5-112(U)
- Arizona Administrative Code R19-2-419(A)
- <http://bit.ly/2PaulickMonarch>

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'Ball Is In Monarch's Court': Arizona Horseplayers Shut Out Of Major Signals In Simulcast Dispute

by [Ray Paulick](#) | 01.26.2020 | 6:01pm



Horseplayers in Arizona have been unable to wager on several major tracks since Friday when the Arizona Racing Commission ordered simulcast signals distributed by Monarch Content Management, LLC a subsidiary of The Stronach Group, to be cut off to all tracks, OTBs and ADW customers in the state.

The decision came one day before the Pegasus World Cup was run at Gulfstream Park, one of the signals distributed by Monarch ordered to be cut off. The others are Santa Anita Park, Golden Gate Fields and Laurel Park – tracks all owned by The Stronach Group – as well as Tampa Bay Downs and international races from Australia and Latin America.

A statement from the Arizona Department of Gaming, which oversees the commission, read: “The commission took this action, effective immediately (Jan. 24, 2020), due to Monarch's failure to comply with recently enacted statute A.R.S. 5-112(U), which mandates that a simulcast providers, such as



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Monarch, offer their signal to all Arizona commercial racing permittees and their additional wagering facilities.”

California has a similar law concerning simulcasts.

The commission made the decision one month after a federal judge denied an application from Monarch for a temporary restraining order to block the legislation. Monarch challenged the constitutionality of the new law, claiming in a lawsuit that it should be preempted by federal law, the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978, which regulates interstate simulcasting.

Monarch distributed its signals to Turf Paradise in Phoenix and its network of nearly 60 off-track betting facilities but opted not to offer the same signals to seven OTBs operated by Arizona Downs racetrack. Formerly known as Yavapai Downs, the track in the Prescott Valley reopened under new ownership in 2019 but closed early in part because its revenue from OTBs fell short when it couldn't get Monarch content.

Monarch's lawsuit claims that selling the signals to the Arizona Downs OTBs “would be deleterious to the business interest of Monarch, Laurel Park, and the other out-of-state-racetracks, as the location of Arizona Downs' OTB sites would create dilution of the wagering product, and depress the overall consumption of content.”



Bob Hutton, president of the Arizona Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, said the decision by Monarch is not only hurting horseplayers and horsemen in Arizona but horse owners in states whose signals are no longer available for wagering in Arizona.

“Hopefully, horsemen around the country will rally and say, 'Why are you hurting the horsemen?’” Hutton said. “Part of that money wagered in Arizona would go in their purse accounts.

“The horsemen own the signals, not Monarch,” Hutton added. “The law is the law. The ball is in Monarch's court. They could make it right in a second.”

The commission said the decision only affects Monarch simulcast signals. “The commission's action to disapprove the Monarch signal remains in effect until the commission receives, reviews and approves simulcast agreements in accordance with Arizona's new law,” the Arizona Department of Gaming statement added.

Turf Paradise on Saturday blamed the state of Arizona, issuing the following Tweet.



Turf Paradise
@turf_paradise

Turf Paradise apologizes that the following tracks are not available for wagering: Santa Anita, Gulfstream, Golden Gate, Tampa Bay, Laurel Park, Melbourne & Latin American Racing. Please direct your questions/complaints to the AZ Dept. of Racing at (602) 364-1700 or (602) 771-4263

8 9:24 AM - Jan 25, 2020

[See Turf Paradise's other Tweets](#)

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