

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION,
DIVISION OF PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING,

Petitioner,

v.

FGCC Case No.: 2024-003123

RYAN BARON,

Respondent.

_____ /

FINAL ORDER

This matter appeared before the Florida Gaming Control Commission at a duly-noticed public meeting on July 8, 2025, for final agency action pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes. After a complete review of the record in this matter, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. A two-count Amended Administrative Complaint was filed in this case on April 1, 2025, alleging violations of sections 550.0251(6), 551.112, and 550.105(5)(b), Florida Statutes, as well as rule 75-11.005(4), Florida Administrative Code. A copy of the Amended Administrative Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit "1" and incorporated by reference.

2. The Amended Administrative Complaint, Election of Rights form, an Explanation of Rights, and a cover letter were served on Respondent May 7, 2025. Proof of service is attached hereto as Exhibit "2" and incorporated by reference.

3. The election of rights form accompanying the administrative complaint made it clear that the Respondent had 21 days to file a written response to the administrative complaint.

4. Respondent has not filed a timely response to the Amended Administrative Complaint. Respondent has not submitted any evidence or made any allegations that would support the application of the doctrine of equitable tolling.

Having considered the Amended Administrative Complaint, the service of the Amended Administrative Complaint with Election of Rights form, Explanation of Rights, and cover letter on Respondent along with Respondent's failure to respond, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, it is hereby

ORDERED and ADJUDGED:

1. The allegations of fact and the conclusions of law in the Amended Administrative Complaint are adopted in their entirety herein.

2. Respondent's slot machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel wagering combination occupational license number 13705017 is hereby **REVOKED**.

3. Respondent's cardroom employee occupational license number 13366025 is hereby **REVOKED**.

4. Respondent is **PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED** from all pari-mutuel facilities and any facilities of a slot machine licensee in the state of Florida.

This Final Order shall take effect upon being filed with the Clerk of the Commission.

DONE AND ORDERED this 15th day of July, 2025.

FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION



CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

On Behalf of

Julie Brown, Vice-Chair

John D'Aquila, Commissioner

Charles Drago, Commissioner

Tina Repp, Commissioner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Any party to this proceeding has the right to seek its judicial review under section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by the filing of an original notice of appeal pursuant to rules 9.110 and 9.190, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Commission, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 (Email: clerk@flgaming.gov), and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate Florida district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed (received) by the Clerk of the Commission within thirty (30) days after the date this Order is filed with the Clerk of the Commission.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 15th day of July, 2025, a true and correct copy of this Final Order has been sent via U.S. Mail to:

Ryan Baron
1901 Southwest 5th Court #207
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312



CLERK OF THE COMMISSION
Florida Gaming Control Commission

CC: Ebonie Lanier

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
DIVISION OF PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING

EXHIBIT
1

FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION,
DIVISION OF PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING,

Petitioner,

v.

FGCC Case No.: 2024-003123

RYAN BARON,

Respondent.

_____ /

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

The Florida Gaming Control Commission, Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering (“Petitioner”), files this Amended Administrative Complaint against Ryan Baron (“Respondent”), and alleges:

1. Petitioner is the state agency charged with regulating pari-mutuel wagering, slot machines, and cardroom operations pursuant to chapters 550, 551, and 849, Florida Statutes.
2. At all times material hereto, Respondent held a Slot Machine/Cardroom/Pari-Mutuel Combination Occupational License, number 13705017, issued pursuant to section 551.107(2)(b), Florida Statutes.
3. At all times material hereto, Respondent held a Cardroom Employee Occupational License, number 13366025, issued pursuant to section 849.086(6), Florida Statutes.
4. At all times material hereto, PPI, Inc. d/b/a Harrah’s Casino Pompano Park (“Harrah’s Casino”) was a facility operated by a permitholder authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering, cardroom operations, and slot machine operations in the state of Florida.

5. At all times material hereto, Respondent worked as a Poker Dealer at Harrah's Casino.

6. On or about January 15, 2024, Respondent was observed via surveillance footage arranging the deck in a way which greatly benefited one patron at the table.

7. On or about January 15, 2024, Respondent's employment with Harrah's Casino was terminated.

8. On or about January 15, 2024, Respondent was permanently excluded from Harrah's Casino.

9. Respondent was permanently excluded from Harrah's Casino for the reasons alleged in Exhibit A.

COUNT I

10. Petitioner realleges and adopts paragraphs one through eight as if set forth fully herein.

11. Section 550.0251(6), Florida Statutes, provides in relevant part:

In addition to the power to exclude certain persons from any pari-mutuel facility in this state, the commission may exclude any person from any and all pari-mutuel facilities in this state for conduct that would constitute, if the person were a licensee, a violation of this chapter or the rules of the commission. The commission may exclude from any pari-mutuel facility within this state any person who has been ejected from a pari-mutuel facility in this state or who has been excluded from any pari-mutuel facility in another state by the governmental department, agency, commission, or authority exercising regulatory jurisdiction over pari-mutuel facilities in such other state.

(Emphasis added).

12. Section 551.112, Florida Statutes, provides:

In addition to the power to exclude certain persons from any facility of a slot machine licensee in this state, the commission may exclude any person from any facility of a slot machine licensee in this state for conduct that would constitute, if the person were a licensee, a violation of this chapter or the rules of the commission. The commission may exclude from any facility of a slot machine licensee any person who has been ejected from a facility of a slot machine licensee in this state or who has been excluded from any facility of a slot machine licensee or gaming facility in another state by the governmental department, agency, commission, or authority exercising regulatory jurisdiction over the gaming in such other state. This section does not abrogate the common law right of a slot machine licensee to exclude a patron absolutely in this state.

(Emphasis added).

13. Based on the foregoing, Respondent violated sections 550.0251(6) and 551.112, Florida Statutes, and is subject to exclusion from all licensed pari-mutuel wagering facilities and any facility of a slot machine licensee in the state of Florida based on his ejection from Harrah's Casino on or about January 15, 2024.

COUNT II

14. Petitioner realleges and adopts paragraphs numbered one through eight as if set forth fully herein.

15. Rule 75-11.005(4), Florida Administrative Code, states:

No person shall, either directly or indirectly: [e]mploy or attempt to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud any participant in a game or the cardroom operator. Engage in any act, practice, or course of operation that would constitute a fraud or deceit upon any participant in a game or the cardroom operator. Engage in any act, practice, or course of operation with the intent of cheating any participant or the cardroom operator.

16. Pursuant to section 550.105(5)(b), Florida Statutes:

The commission may deny, suspend, revoke, or declare ineligible any occupational license if the applicant for or holder thereof has violated the provisions of this chapter or the rules of the commission

governing the conduct of persons connected with racetracks and frontons.

17. Based on the foregoing, Respondent violated rule 75-11.005, Florida Administrative Code, by arranging the deck in a way which greatly benefited one patron at the table with the intent of cheating the other participants of the game or the cardroom operator. Respondent is therefore subject to suspension or revocation of his occupational license.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests the Florida Gaming Control Commission enter an Order revoking Respondent's Slot Machine/Cardroom/Pari-Mutuel Combination Occupational License, number 13705017, and Respondent's Cardroom Employee Occupational License, number 13366025, and excluding Respondent from all licensed pari-mutuel wagering facilities and any facility of a slot machine licensee in the state of Florida, in accordance with sections 550.0251(6) and 551.112, along with any other remedy provided by chapters 550 and 551, Florida Statutes, and/or the rules promulgated thereunder.

This Amended Administrative Complaint for FGCC Case Number 2024-003123 is signed this 31st day of March, 2025.

/s/Emily A. Alvarado

Emily A. Alvarado
Chief Attorney
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Florida Gaming Control Commission
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Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering
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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, you have the right to request a hearing to challenge the charges contained in this Administrative Complaint. If you choose to request a hearing, you will have the right to be represented by counsel, or other qualified representative, to present evidence and argument, to call and cross-examine witnesses, and to have subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum issued on your behalf.

Any request for an administrative proceeding to challenge or contest the charges contained in this Administrative Complaint must conform to rule 28-106.2015, Florida Administrative Code. Pursuant to rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code, you must request a hearing within 21 days from receipt of this Notice, or you will waive your right to request a hearing.

Mediation under section 120.573, Florida Statutes, is not available to resolve this Administrative Complaint.