

# ***Joe Gorajec***

## ***Biography***

Joe Gorajec has worked in the horse racing industry throughout his entire adult life. He graduated from the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program in 1981 and has served as a racing official and in administrative, management and regulatory positions throughout his career.

In 1986, at the age of 28, Mr. Gorajec had the distinction of being the youngest general manager in the nation when he took the reins of Yakima Meadows Race Track in central Washington State.

The position that defined his career, however, is the 25 years he served as the executive director of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission (1990-2015). Indiana's horse racing industry, during Mr. Gorajec's tenure, was known for its proactive, highly principled approach to regulation.

This proactivity is manifest in several initiatives, a few of which include Indiana's being the first state in the nation to adopt and enforce the national model rule regulating the use of anabolic steroids (2008). Indiana was also the first state to regulate the abuse of cobalt (2014).

Indiana was one of the first states to sample and test horses out of competition (2007). Under Mr. Gorajec's guidance, Indiana's out-of-competition testing program became one of the most extensive in the nation.

In an effort to ensure the integrity of its equine testing program, Mr. Gorajec initiated a unique-to-the-industry laboratory audit, as well as a double-blind sample testing program (2015).

During his service in Indiana, Mr. Gorajec was active in the trade association of racing regulators, the Association of Racing Commissioners' International, serving on its board of directors for six years and as its chairman in 2008.

Upon leaving the Indiana Horse Racing Commission in October 2015, Mr. Gorajec began serving as a racing industry consultant through an LLC he established – Horse Racing Integrity Consulting.

Mr. Gorajec is a proud member of the Water Hay Oats Alliance (WHOA).

He is also a member of the Humane Society of the United States' Horse Racing Advisory Council (2016).