



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS

**LOS ANGELES TURF CLUB, INC.
SANTA ANITA PARK**

TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Honorable Chuck Winner, Chairman
Honorable Madeline Auerbach, Vice Chairman
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Honorable Fred Maas, Member
Honorable Araceli Ruano, Member
Honorable Alex Solis, Member
Rick Baedeker, Executive Director
Jacqueline Wagner, Assistant Executive Director
John McDonough, Chief Counsel
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

WEEK 11 –TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019, THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019.

TUESDAY
03/05/19¹

CANCELLED RACES

The live races for this week have been cancelled at Santa Anita Park “Indefinitely” over concerns of the rash of horse fatalities. Santa Anita management canceled races to allow former Track Superintendent Dennis Moore to assess the racing surface and make any repairs needed. Management issued the following press release:

Arcadia, CA – March 5, 2019 – The Stronach Group announced the closure of Santa Anita Park for live racing and training effective immediately while the one-mile main track undergoes additional extensive testing.

All stakes races scheduled for this upcoming weekend, including the Grade I Santa Anita Handicap, the Grade II San Felipe and the Grade II San Carlos will be rescheduled.

“The safety, health and welfare of the horses and jockeys is our top priority,” said Tim Ritvo, Chief Operating Officer, The Stronach Group. “While we are confident further testing will confirm the soundness of the track, the decision to close is the right thing to do at this time.”

The Stronach Group has been in constant communication with the California Horse Racing Board and numerous key industry stakeholders who are in full agreement with the decision to suspend racing and training.

The additional testing of the track will be led by veteran Trackman Dennis Moore, expanding on the ground radar testing conducted earlier this week by the University of Kentucky’s Dr. Mick Peterson. Measures will include utilizing an Orono Biomechanical Surface Tester, a device that mimics the impacts of a horse running at full gallop allowing engineers to see how the track holds up. These test results will be evaluated to ensure track consistency and uniformity for both training and racing.

Further, The Stronach Group will be conducting a comprehensive evaluation of all existing safety measures and current protocols.

WEDNESDAY

03/06/19¹

STEWARD IN

Steward Kim Sawyer was in the office on Wednesday morning to resolve any issues and get updates regarding the track closure. Sawyer also approved licenses and was taking care of some of the day to day matters.

THURSDAY

03/07/19¹

STEWARDS IN

The full board of Stewards including Kim Sawyer, Grant Baker , Luis Jauregui and Safety Steward Ron Church, were in throughout the week to hear cases that been previously scheduled this week and to address any matters. Safety Steward Ron Church will be in all week monitoring the testing and renovations of the race track surface, plus overseeing the safety during training.

03/07/19²

CORP YARD VISIT

All three Stewards went to the corporation yard to visit with Track Consultant DENNIS MOORE and Track Superintendent ANDY LAROCCO.

03/07/19³

CASE WITHDRAWN (ref: 03-03-19⁶)

The following case against Stable ACTION CAT THOROUGHBREDS has been withdrawn, resulting from the fact that Veterinarian Ronald Magrini notified us that they settled the case for unpaid veterinarian bills for the amount of \$238.00.

03/07/19⁴

FINANCIAL (Case #19SA006)

This case is against Stable "FORTUNA RANCH RACING LLC." (Demetrios Xanthos) for unpaid veterinarian services for the amount of \$1,569.14. Dr. Melinda Blue, who filed the complaint, was in our office for the scheduled hearing. After the respondent failed to show up for the hearing, we will be suspending their license for failure to appear.

03/07/19⁵

AGENT IN

Jockey Agent BRIAN BEACH was in our office seeking an extension for his Apprentice Jockey Assael Espinoza. Mr. Beach stated that Mr. Espinoza's one-year apprentice period will end on April 5, 2019 and he wanted to extend this by the amount of time in which the track is closed for extensive testing. We told him we would get back to him with an answer.

03/07/19⁶

BAZE IN

Jockey TYLER BAZE was in our office seeking a clearance letter from the Board of Stewards. Mr. Baze will be riding in another jurisdictions while the track is closed.

FRIDAY

03/08/19¹

CLEARANCE LETTER

Jockey Agent Tony Matos was in our office seeking a clearance letter and gather the apprentice certificate for his Apprentice Jockey J. C. DIAZ JR. The young rider will be traveling out of town to ride in Florida while the track is closed for testing.

03/08/19²

FORTUNA RANCH RACING RULING (CASE #19SA066 & #19SA0054)

The following ruling was issued suspending Owner/Stable DEMETRIOS XANTHOS (dba Fortuna Ranch LLC) for failing to respond to complaints filed by Veterinarians Dr. Blue (ref. 3/7/2019⁴) and Dr. Magrini (ref 3/7/2019²) for unpaid veterinarian services.

RULING LATS #053

Owner DEMETRIOS XANTHOS (dba Fortuna Ranch Racing, LLC), having failed to respond to charges alleging violations of California Horse Racing Board rule #1876 (Financial Responsibility – Dr. Ronald Magrini - \$1419.56 and Dr. Melinda Blue - \$1569.14) on March 3, 2019, and March 7, 2019, is suspended on March 15, 2019, for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1547 (Failure to Appear).

During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of DEMETRIOS XANTHOS are suspended and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to Suspend or Fine), DEMETRIOS XANTHOS is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

03/08/19³

AGENT BACK IN

Jockey Agent Brian Beach was back in our office to get an answer regarding his request for an extension for Apprentice JOCKEY ASSAEL ESPINOZA. Mr. Espinoza has a year from when he had his fifth winner which should end on April 5, 2019. Mr. Beach's request was denied due to the fact that extensions are only generally granted when an apprentice jockey is injured or in the military or attending school.

03/08/19⁴

BOUZA COMPLAINT (case #19SA0073)

The following complaint filed by Veterinarian Dr. Ronald Magrini for unpaid veterinarian services for the amount of \$752.00 against Owner LUIS BOUZA, has been withdrawn after we received notice that the debt has been paid in full.

SATURDAY

03/09/19¹

STEVE LYM MEETING

Vice President of Racing & Racing Secretary STEVE LYM came to the Steward's office to update us with the recent happenings here at Santa Anita Park. Several topics were discussed during the one (1) hour meeting. Most significantly, we discussed when they might reschedule the Santa Anita Handicap. Some of the other topics this morning were:

- 1) New workout request form- trainers will need to submit a form prior to the racing office seeking permission to work twenty-four (24) hours prior.
- 2) Track Condition scratch policy
- 3) Discussion of additional veterinarian on duty during a. m. training.
- 4) Post time changes
- 5) New time slots for recorded workouts- 15 minute workers-only after renovations.
- 6) Carding or not carding extra races when entries are plentiful.

Santa Anita Management issued the following press release:

SANTA ANITA PARK TO INSTITUTE NEW ENHANCED PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES TO HELP ENSURE RACING AND TRAINING SAFETY AND INTEGRITY

ARCADIA, Calif. (March 8, 2019)–As a thorough evaluation of Santa Anita's main track continues, The Stronach Group (TSG) has announced several new safety and welfare measures which will be put in place when racing resumes at Santa Anita Park in the coming weeks.

"We're looking forward to returning to normal, but it will be a new normal," said Tim Ritvo, Chief Operating Officer, TSG. "The safety of our equine and human athletes remains our highest priority. We need to work together and continue to create not only our own internal audits, but an open and honest dialogue with all of the stakeholders and evaluate best practices at other racetracks around the world."

Moving forward, Santa Anita Park will require trainers to apply for permission to work a horse (a timed high-speed training exercise) at least 24 hours in advance. This will allow track veterinarians to assist in identifying "at risk" horses through the evaluation of past performances, workout data and physical inspection. Santa Anita has hired additional veterinarians to observe all horses entering and exiting the tracks each morning during training hours.

Santa Anita had previously announced a change to the morning training schedule to ensure a more orderly and safe process. The first 15 minutes of training after the main track opens, and after each renovation break, are now exclusively reserved for horses working for an officially clocked time. This will allow horses going at a faster pace to encounter less traffic, thus providing a safer environment.

TSG is also announcing the creation of a new position, Director of Equine Welfare, which will be held by an accredited veterinarian. This person will be responsible for the oversight of all aspects of equine well-being and will lead a new Rapid Response team for injuries which will be tasked with conducting transparent investigations of all factors involving the injury, as well the communication of their findings to the racing and general public. As has been implemented with great success at Gulfstream Park, Santa Anita will now institute a “House Rule” requiring complete transparency with regard to veterinary records. This mandates that the veterinary records of a horse follow that horse through any trainer or ownership change, including a claiming race or private sale. “This has worked very well at Gulfstream Park,” said Ritvo. “There was some pushback from the trainers at first, but this is the best thing for the horse. Now, everyone has bought into the process as they realize they are also on the receiving end of this information intended to understand the full medical history of that horse.” TSG is strongly committed to working with the California Horse Racing Board and industry stakeholders in evaluating racetrack safety. The goal is to establish a culture of health and safety throughout all of the racetracks, creating checks and balances, intervention strategies and working together to identify factors to help mitigate risk to horses and riders. This includes the continued engagement of Dr. Mick Peterson of the University of Kentucky and veteran trackman Dennis Moore, and other independent racetrack surface experts to continually review both the dirt and turf courses for consistency, composition and compaction, as well as the exploration of advancements in injury detection and prevention.

“Every one of us, from our Chairman and President (TSG) Belinda Stronach, to our employees, to every trainer and owner and person who works in the stable area, we all have deep, deep love for horses,” said Ritvo. “It’s why we get up every day. It’s all about the horses. Human medicine is more advanced than equine medicine, so if there is new technology or equipment that will assist in increasing the ability to discover our pre-existing injuries, we’re going to invest in that technology and bring it to our horsemen.”

03/09/19²

JRA VISIT

Horseman Relations Manager for Japan Racing Association TAKAYUKI YU stopped by our office to discuss medication policies in California. He was originally scheduled to visit prior to the cancelling of the races and used this time to do some research. We had a good discussion about racing here in California compared to racing in Japan.

03/09/19³

TRAINING VIOLATION

Safety Steward Ron Church brought in a training citation when Assistant Trainer JAMES BARNES was cited when he led his horse onto the race track during the “workers-only” period. Mr. Barnes stated his horse was acting up and he needed to get him on the track to train. He apologized for his actions and accepted the penalty. We will be issuing the ruling next week when our secretary is back in the office

03/09/19⁴

OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS VISIT

Official Veterinarians DR. TIM GRANDE and DR. WILL FARMER were in to discuss the way they are going to improve the monitoring of training and red flag any high risk horses that are entered to run. The discussion was educational.

SUNDAY

03/10/19¹

TRAINING CITATION

Trainer STEVE MIYADI was cited after he instructed his exercise rider to enter the track with his two-year-old horse during the time in which horses of this age are not permitted. Mr. Miyadi did not object and stated “do what you have to do.” The ruling will be issued next week.

03/10/19² **CLOCKER/PHOTO FINISH**
 Photo Finish Operator MIKE ASCANIO came in the office to seek our approval for a photo finish operator and clocker license. We granted his approval for the license.

03/10/19³ **BOULANGER IN**
 Jockey BRANDON BOULANGER came in to seek our approval to allow him to place advertising on his jockey pants. Mr. Boulanger wanted to have "365 Bail Bonds" on his jockey's pants. We told Mr. Boulanger that we would discuss it and get back to him with our decision

03/10/19⁴ **AMY ZIMMERMAN**
 Vice- President, Business Coordination & Director of Broadcasting AMY ZIMMERMAN stopped by the Stewards' Office this morning. The Stewards wanted to share their thoughts on Ms. Zimmerman's areas of concern and/or possible improvements with racetrack procedures relating to equine health and safety.

03/10/19⁵ **HEAD CLOCKER**
 Head Clocker NANCY MLODZIANOWSKI has been named the new head clocker at Santa Anita. She has been a clocker for about eighteen years before she took over the new position. We wanted to go over our protocols and expectations.

SANTA ANITA PARK - VETERINARIAN REPORT - Week of: 3/04/19 - 3/10/19

Horses on Vet List	4	Horses off Vet List	3
Shock Wave Therapy	11	Fatalities	1
Medication	0		

SUMMARY

	Thurs 3/7	Fri 3/8	Sat 3/9	Sun 3/10	Week	Meet
Accidents	X	X	X	X	X	6
Cal-Bred Races	X	X	X	X	X	44
Claims	X	X	X	X	X	141
Disqualifications	X	X	X	X	X	1
Inquiries	X	X	X	X	X	21
Refunds	X	X	X	X	X	301
Rulings	X	1	X	X	1	53
Voided Claims	X	X	X	X	X	30

Respectfully submitted,

 Luis Jauregui, Steward

 Kim Sawyer, Steward

 Grant W. Baker, Steward

 Ron Church, Safety Steward

BOS: LJ:dw