

**California Horse Racing Board**

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**Los Angeles Turf Club, Inc.**  
Santa Anita Park, Arcadia, California  
**TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

Honorable Gregory L. Ferraro DVM, Chairman  
Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman  
Honorable Dennis V. Alfieri, Member  
Honorable Damascus Castellanos, Member  
Honorable Wendy Mitchell, Member  
Honorable Alex Solis, Member  
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

**Report for the Week of Tuesday, May 26, 2020 through Sunday, May 31, 2020****WEDNESDAY**5/27/20<sup>1</sup>**ENTRY/SCRATCH DAY**

The racing office was open today accepting entries for Saturday May 30. Nine (9) races were drawn and seventy-five (75) horses are scheduled to start. Luis Jauregui was on duty in the Stewards Office overseeing entries and declarations.

Scratches and changes for Saturday May 30 were taken this morning in the racing office. All changes were activated after the 10:00 a.m. deadline.

**THURSDAY**5/28/20<sup>1</sup>**ENTRY/SCRATCH DAY**

The racing office was open today accepting entries for Sunday May 31. Eight (8) races were drawn and fifty-eight (58) horses are scheduled to start. Steward Luis Jauregui was on duty overseeing matters.

Scratches and changes for Sunday May 31 were accepted this morning in the racing office. Assistant Clerk of Scales Charles McCaul handled the 'scratch board'. All changes were activated after the 10:00 a.m. deadline.

**FRIDAY**5/29/20<sup>1</sup>**SARAH BIRCH COMPLAINTS (CASE NO. 20SA0034 & 20SA0037)**

The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) filed two (2) separate complaints against DR. SARAH BIRCH for alleged violations of CHRB Rule #1842 (Veterinarian Report). The first complaint (Case No. 20SA0034) alleges that Dr. Birch failed to turn in her Veterinarian Reports (Confidential) regarding treatments on two (2) separate occasions. Those dates were November 9, 2018 and November 19, 2018. This complaint was prepared by CHRB Investigator Greg Icamen who along with Dr. Birch was present for today's hearing.

## **COMPLAINT #2**

The second complaint filed against Veterinarian Birch (Case No.20SA0037) was prepared by CHRB Investigator Jennifer Tolman CHRB Investigator. Greg Icamen presented the case in our office for the CHRB. The complaint stated that Veterinarian Birch failed to provide the State Vet's office an 'Official Veterinarian Report on January 21, 2019. With the permission of Sarah Birch Investigator Icamen presented an amendment to this complaint that was also prepared by Investigator Tolman. This additional alleged violation involved the same horse on January 22, 2020.

Dr. Birch accepted full responsibility for violations of CHRB #1842 listed above. She stated that she does her own paperwork and simply 'got busy' and forgot to take care of her necessary responsibilities. Decision to follow.

5/29/20<sup>2</sup>

### **DRAYDEN VAN DYKE FILM REVIEW**

Jockey DRAYDEN VAN DYKE appeared in the Stewards' Office to review his ride in the eighth race on Monday May 25, 2020. Jockey Van Dyke was aboard #9 Fierce for Sul who finished second in this 5 ½ furlong event on the main track. At today's informal hearing Van Dyke was accompanied by Darrel Haire of the Jockey's Guild. Film review shows #9 Fierce for Sul angle in sharply from his next to far outside post position. Without ever straightening his mount Jockey Van Dyke drifts into the path of fourth place finisher #2 Buyer's Remorse (Mario Gutierrez) forcing that rival to 'check' his mount. The majority felt the video was inconclusive in determining the margin of clearance and therefore, voted for a warning. Steward Baker felt this ride was careless and voted for a suspension.

5/29/20<sup>3</sup>

### **DRAYDEN VAN DYKE APPEAL**

Jockey VAN DYKE was issued a five (5) day suspension May 22 at Santa Anita. He received a stay of that ruling (Ruling LATS #74) on May 27 after Del Mar CA. based attorney Bing Bush represented Mr. Van Dyke in Los Angeles County Superior Court-Central Division. The status of this ruling is stayed pending an administrative appeal that will be heard at a yet to be determined date.

5/29/20<sup>4</sup>

### **JOSE ANTONIO FLORES RULING**

Trainer JOSE ANTONIO FLORES raced #5 QUEEN VERRANZO in the eighth race on Monday May 25, 2020. He did not have his horse properly registered to race on Lasix prior to entry. The 'Lasix mark' appeared in the official program following a late registration that we allowed. For violating Rule #1845 we issued the following ruling in a unanimous decision.

#### **LATS RULING #083**

Trainer JOSE ANTONIO FLORES is fined FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$400.00) \* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1845 (Authorized Bleeder Medication – late registration of QUEEN VERRAZANO in the eighth race) on May 25, 2020, at Santa Anita Park.

5/29/20<sup>5</sup>

### **SAUL MARQUEZ RULING**

Jockey Agent SAUL MARQUEZ handles the business affairs of Jockey Rueben Fuentes. He gave a commitment (call) to ride Cool Runnings (Tr. Keith Desormeaux) who raced in the fifth race today May 29. On the morning of the draw (May 25) Agent Marquez got what he considered to be a 'liver mount' (Racetrack slang—better horse) and backed out of that commitment to ride a John Sadler trainee. After hearing 'both sides' of the issue the Stewards, in a unanimous vote issued the following ruling. Jockey Agent Marquez did not protest the decision.

#### **LATS RULING #084**

Jockey Agent SAUL MARQUEZ is fined TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1530 (Cases Not Covered by Rules and Regulations – failure to conduct business in a proper manner) on May 25, 2020, at Santa Anita Park.

5/29/20<sup>6</sup>

**FIRST RACE STEWARDS' REVIEW**

Following the running of this 4 ½ furlong event we conducted a 'Stewards Review' into the start. #4 SMOOTHLIKEBUTTAH (Odds 9/5) reared high in the air when Starter Jay Slender dispatched the field. This horse lost approximately eight (8) lengths due to this event. While obviously trailing in this race early, #4 SMOOTHLIKEBUTTAH finished strongly while racing to a fourth-place finish.

The Stewards reviewed various camera angles of this incident during our Stewards' Review. We were unable to contact Starter Slender via two-way radio as he later stated his radio was not sufficiently charged. It was ultimately determined, in a unanimous decision, that this horse should be deemed an official starter. We found no evidence of human or mechanical error.

5/29/20<sup>7</sup>

**THIRD RACE INQUIRY**

The Stewards posted the Inquiry sign following the running of today's third race which was contested at 5 ½ furlongs on the infield turf course. Race replays show second place finisher #7 BELLA CHICA (Umberto Rispoli) drift out inside the final furlong and made contact with the first-place finisher #8 FIREPROOF (Flavien Prat). Jockey Rispoli and his mount drifted out under left-handed cropping in the stretch before making contact with the winner. In a second, and less significant incident, #7 FIREPROOF steps inward and makes contact with Jockey's Rispoli's mount #7 BELLA CHICA. The Stewards determined that the second-place finisher was more at fault and we let the original placings stand. No change. Jockey Rispoli was ordered to film review with the Stewards.

5/29/20<sup>8</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES & REFUNDS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Race #4 SHEZA FACTOR (Tr. V. Garcia) claimed, D. O'Neill, trainer  
 4<sup>th</sup> Race Declaration #4 INFO'S TREASURE (Tr. I. Kruljac) Unsound-Dana Stead DVM  
 REFUND: \$938.14  
 5<sup>th</sup> Race #1 MUNNINGS' PILOT (Tr. R. Baltas) Sick-Dana Stead DVM  
 REFUND: \$3,679.60  
 6<sup>th</sup> Race Declaration #6 THICK SMOKE (Tr. S. Miyadi) Unsound-Tim Grande DVM  
 REFUND: \$1,275.39  
 6<sup>th</sup> Race Ownership Change #8 Dozo should read Susie & F. Aldrich or M. Aldrich  
 7<sup>th</sup> Race Declaration #2 BELLA VITA (Tr. S. Callaghan) Sick-Dana Stead DVM  
 REFUND: \$976.71  
 7<sup>th</sup> Race NO SHOW WAGERING

5/29/20<sup>9</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	0	\$123.40
SCOTWinc	180	\$72,387.60
Out of state + ADW	0	\$6,168,565.48
Total	180	\$6,241,076.48

**SATURDAY**

5/30/20<sup>1</sup>

**SARAH BIRCH DVM RULING (REF: 05/29/2020<sup>1</sup>)**

The ruling below was issued following Stewards deliberation of a recorded hearing that was conducted in our office yesterday. The fine in this case (No.20SA0034) involves two (2) violations on November 9, 2018 and November 19, 2020 that were not properly reported.

**Lats ruling #085**

Veterinarian SARAH BIRCH, is fined TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)\* for two (2) violations of California Horse Racing Board rule #1842 (Veterinarian Report – failure to provide) on November 9, 2018, and November 19, 2018, at Santa Anita park.

5/30/20<sup>2</sup>

**ADDITIONAL SARAH BIRCH DVM RULING (REF: 05/29/20<sup>1</sup>)**

The ruling below was issued in a unanimous decision. DR. SARAH BIRCH failed to disclose to the CHRB that she treated a horse on January 21 and January 22, 2019. The complaint in this case (No.SA0037) was prepared by CHRB Investigator Jennifer Tolman.

**LATS RULING #086**

Veterinarian SARAH BIRCH, is fined TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)\* for two (2) violations of California Horse Racing Board rule #1842 (Veterinarian Report – failure to provide) on November 9, 2018, and November 19, 2018, at Santa Anita Park.

5/30/20<sup>3</sup>

**JENNIFER FINLEY DVM HEARING (CASE NO. 20SA0041)**

Private Veterinarian JENNIFER FINLEY appeared in our office to answer to an allegation that she violated CHRB Rule #1842 (Veterinarian Report). It was discovered that Dr. Finley treated a horse with a pre-workout Lasix treatment on December 9, 2018. She did not list this treatment on an official 'Veterinarian Report' form which is required by rule.

This hearing was recording on a recording device recently provided to the Stewards by the CHRB. Decision to follow.

5/30/20<sup>4</sup>

**SECOND JENNIFER FINLEY DVM HEARING (CASE NO. 20SA0035)**

JENNIFER FINLEY DVM remained in our office for a second recorded hearing. Dr. Finley allegedly treated a horse on four (4) separate occasions without listing those treatments on CHRB Veterinarian Reports. If found guilty by the preponderance of the evidence, these would be violations of CHRB Rule #1842 (Veterinarian Report). In this case and in the previous case Dr. Finley told the Stewards that she properly faxed paperwork (Veterinarian Report) to the receiving barn at Santa Anita in both of these matters. Amy Nakagawa (Assistant to the CHRB Veterinarian) was contacted. She told us she has had 'no issues' with the fax machine in the receiving barn office. Decision to follow.

5/30/20<sup>5</sup>

**UMBERTO RISPOLI FILM REVIEW (REF: 05/29/20<sup>6</sup>)**

Jockey UMBERTO RISPOLI appeared in our office this morning to review his ride aboard #7 Bella Chica who finished second yesterday May 29. This race was contested at 5 ½ furlongs on the infield turf course. There was a Stewards' Inquiry in this race which resulted in 'no change'. Film review focused on the actions of Jockey Rispoli in the final furlong of this race. #7 BELLA CHICA drifted out making contact with first place finisher #8 FIREPROOF (Flavien Prat). During today's review Jockey Rispoli focused more on the actions of #8 FIREPROOF, who herself drifted in slightly nearing the finish, than his own. Steward Jauregui voted for a 3-day suspension feeling Rispoli used his riding crop after contact. Stewards Baker and Sawyer voted for a warning.

5/30/20<sup>6</sup>

**THIRD RACE INQUIRY**

The Stewards posted the Inquiry sign after viewing an incident at the 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile location. This incident involved first place finisher #1 Paige Runner (Heriberto Figueroa) and second place finisher #2 Destiny's Journey (Jorge Velez). #1 Paige Runner drifted in at this location and bumped #2 Destiny's Journey. The margin between these two (2) rivals at the finish was one (1) length. The Stewards reviewed all camera angles of the incident. We also received a 'patrol judge report via two-way radio and spoke to both jockey's involved. In a unanimous decision the Stewards allowed the original placings to stand. No change.

5/30/20<sup>7</sup>

**SEVENTH RACE INQUIRY**

The Stewards posted the Inquiry sign in order to analyze two (2) incidents in this 1 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile turf race.

**INCIDENT #1**

Third place finisher #4 CROUGHAVOUKE (IRE) (Umberto Rispoli) drifts in at the 1/8<sup>th</sup> pole marker, forcing fifth place finisher #1 GUITTY (FR) (Brice Blanc) to steady his mount. There was also 'inside pressure' from fourth place finisher #7 REDD LARK (IRE) (Drayden Van Dyke) who drifted out and contributed to the incident.

**INCIDENT #2**

Second place finisher #9 STELA STAR (IRE) drifts out inside the 1/16<sup>th</sup> marker causing #7 RED LARK (IRE) (Drayden Van Dyke) to shift off what was previously her straight path. #7 RED LARK (IRE) was beaten 1 ¼ lengths for a better placing.

After reviewing these two (2) events the Stewards received a patrol judge report and reviewed all camera angles. The Stewards made 'no change' in the order of finish in either incident. Jockey FLAVIEN PRAT was ordered to film review.

5/30/20<sup>8</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES & REFUND**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race Declaration #3 SWING THOUGHTS (Tr. K. Desormeaux) Unsound-L.Bohannon DVM
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Race Declaration #6 SEIZETHEDAY (Tr. D. O'Neill) Unsound-Tim Grande DVM
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Race Cancel \$1 Super Hi 5 Wagering
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Race #1 PAIGE RUNNER (Tr. G. Mandella) claimed, D. O'Neill, trainer
- 7<sup>th</sup> Race Declaration #7 LITTLE BIRD (IRE) Stake-Stewards.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Race Declaration #5 TRAFFIC STOPPER (Tr. B. Koriner) Injured-Tim Grande DVM

5/30/20<sup>9</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	0	\$829.40
SCOTWinc	246	\$110,996.08
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$9,511,344.87
Total	246	\$9,623,170.35

**SUNDAY**  
5/31/20<sup>1</sup>

**MARTIN DIAZ RODRIGUEZ HEARING (CASE NO. 20SR0012)**

The CHRB filed two (2) complaints against Groom MARTIN DIAZ RODRIGUEZ. Both complaints contained the same three (3) alleged rule violations. Those rules were Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct), Rule #1902 (Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing) and Rule #1930 (Obedience to Security Officers and Public Safety Officers). Both of these devices recorded informal hearings were originally scheduled to be heard on March 28, 2020 but were postponed due to Covid-19 issues. The two (2) complaints read as follows.

**COMPLAINT #1 (Prepared by CHRB Investigator Noe Longoria)**

*On February 13, 2020, while at the San Luis Rey Training Facility. I made contact with Groom Martin Diaz Rodriguez regarding a cigarette smoking complaint in the barn area. Groom Rodriguez was handling horses and was found to be under the influence of alcohol. He was relieved of his duties and sent home.*

**COMPLAINT #2 (Prepared by CHRB Investigator Angelica Merz)**

*On February 20, 2020, at 910 hours, CHRB B. Holcombe and A. Merz conducted a random Preliminary Alcohol Screening (PAS) test on Groom Martin Rodriguez at San Luis Rey Training Center. The test indicated Rodriguez' blood alcohol level was 0.069%. Martin admitted to CHRB investigators he drank two shots of tequila that morning at 0430 hours before coming to work. Groom Rodriguez has worked for Trainer Peter Miller for about 14 years. At today's hearing he was accompanied by Assistant Trainer Rueben Alvarado who assisted with translation. Omar Lizarraga (Winners Foundation) testified via telephone. He testified that with involvement from his organization, Mr. Rodriguez has just recently completed a 60 -day in-house rehabilitation residence. Mr. Longoria told us that Groom Rodriguez is signed up for classes with the*

'Winners Foundation' this summer. Mr. Rodriguez was ordered to the CHRB enforcement office where he provided a urine sample (negative) prior to our issuance of the following ruling. Our decision was unanimous. We combined these two (2) complaints and issued this ruling.

**LATS RULING #87**

Groom MARTIN DIAZ RODRIGUEZ is fined TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00) \* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1930 (Obedience to Security Officers and Public Safety Officers – smoking), CASE NUMBER 20SR0012. Also, for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct - under the influence of alcohol), CASE NUMBER 20SR0021.

Furthermore, MARTIN DIAZ RODRIGUEZ has signed a testing agreement with the California Horse Racing Board and entered into a contract with the Winners' Foundation. Mr. RODRIGUEZ shall abide by the terms set forth in that contract.

5/31/20<sup>2</sup>

**FLAVIEN PRAT FILM REVIEW (REF:05/30/20 (7))**

Jockey FLAVIEN PRAT appeared in the Stewards' office to review his ride aboard #9 STELA STAR (IRE) who finished second in yesterday's (May 30) seventh race. This was the 'Honeymoon Stakes' (\$100,000-Grade 3) contested at 1 1/8<sup>th</sup> miles on the infield turf course. The Stewards' Inquiry in this race involved two (2) incidents. Jockey Prat was involved in the second incident where his mount #9 STELA STAR (IRE) shifts off her straight path and into the path of fourth place finisher #7 RED LARK (IRE) (Drayden Van Dyke) forcing that rival to steady. Jockey Prat told us that his errant path was due to first place finisher #5 LAURA'S LIGHT (Abel Cedillo) not 'staying straight' while racing in front of him. The Stewards did not agree with Jockey Prats film analysis as that Jockey Cedillo was well clear of #9 STELA STAR (IRE) while slightly coming off her straight path.

Jockey Prat was issued a 'warning' in this matter in which was a unanimous decision.

5/31/20<sup>3</sup>

**FOURTH RACE STEWARDS' REVIEW**

The Stewards announced that a Stewards' Review would be conducted into the running of today's fourth race. Our main focus were the actions of eventual fifth place finisher #8 UNBIDLED'S SKYE (Umberto Rispoli). This horse reared high in the air and lost much ground when Starter Jay Slender dispatched the field. The Stewards reviewed this incident several times and felt that there was no mechanical failure or human error involved here. No reason for an Inquiry. No change in the original placings.

5/31/20<sup>4</sup>

**SEVENTH RACE DELAY**

#1 HARD NOT TO LOVE (Mike Smith) delayed the start of today's 7<sup>th</sup> race (Santa Maria Stakes-Grade 2-\$200,000) by balking/freezing up while the rest of the field was being led to the starting gate of this 1 1/16<sup>th</sup> mile main track event. Post time was 3:42 p.m. Off time was 3:50 p.m. #1 HARD NOT TO LOVE, who has a history of eventful post parade behavior, raced to a second place in this event. Southern California Stewards will meet with Trainer John Sherriffs to discuss his plans going forward with this filly in order to comply with CHRB rules and regulations.

5/31/20<sup>5</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Race	#2 WHATWASITHINKING (Tr. S. Knapp) claimed, V. Cerin, trainer— <b>VOIDED</b> -Bled
	#4 MYSTERY MESSENGER (Tr. D. O'Neil) claimed, V. Cerin, trainer
4 <sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration	#5 QUICK FINISH (Tr. D. Blacker) Injured-Tim Grande DVM REFUND: \$2,522.66
4 <sup>th</sup> Race	#1 SEVEN SCENTS (Tr. C. Lewis) claimed, M. Puype, trainer
5 <sup>th</sup> Race Declaration	#1 MY SUPER MARIO (Tr. R. Baltas) Sick-Dana Stead REFUND: \$1,675.78
8 <sup>th</sup> Race Declaration	#3 CLOCKSRIKESTWELVE (Tr. P. Gallagher) Enter Back-Stewards REFUND: \$1,048.68

8<sup>th</sup> Race

#5 MISS FLAWLESS (FR) claimed, V. Cerin, trainer

#8 TONAHUTU (IRE) claimed, D. O'Neill, trainer

5/31/20<sup>6</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	0	\$2,038.20
SCOTWinc	258	\$111,787.23
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$7,799,533.86
Total	258	\$7,913,359.29

**VETERINARIAN REPORT – WEEK OF 5/25/20 TO 5/31/20**

Horses on Vet List	19
Horses off Vet List	6
Shock Wave Therapy	7
Fatalities	0
Medication	0

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri 6/29</b>	<b>Sat 6/30</b>	<b>Sun 6/31</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	2	3	1	6	84
<b>Claims</b>	1	1	5	7	123
<b>Disqualifications</b>	0	0	0	0	12
<b>Inquiries</b>	1	1	0	2	13
<b>Refunds</b>	4	6	3	13	274
<b>Rulings</b>	2	2	1	5	86
<b>Voided Claims</b>	0	0	1	1	11

Respectfully submitted,

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Grant W. Baker, Steward

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Luis Jauregui, Steward

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Kim Sawyer, Steward

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David Nuesch, Safety Steward