

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
LOS ALAMITOS QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION****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 Brenda Washington Davis, Member

Honorable Thomas Hudnut, Member

Honorable Wendy Mitchell, Member

C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director

Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director

Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report of the Board of Stewards for the week of January 17, 2023, through January 22, 2023.

**Tuesday**

01/17/2023

**(1) MEDICATION HEARING**

The Board of Stewards met this morning to hear a complaint filed against Juan Aleman, whose horse "Mornings With Maria", tested positive for the Class IV substance Cobalt (25ng/ml). The horse finished second in the \$325,000 PCQHRA Futurity on October 2, 2022.

Mr. Aleman knew where the source of violation came from as he regularly uses a supplement with the brand name Iron Power, which contains Cobalt. He said that he has used the product for quite a while and has not had a problem with test results. Mr. Aleman stated that he uses the product as a "blood builder", as over time it increases red blood cells in his horses. He surmises that the horse's groom, who is responsible for dispensing the supplement, gave the horse a dose closer to race day than normal. One issue which caused him concern was the fact that he ran several horses in the trials for the race, including the horse in question, and had no problems with any post-race results. Consequently, he wonders if procedures were changed between the trials and finals. Regardless, Mr. Aleman has now changed his procedure so that the horses receive the product 72 hours prior to the race. Decision pending.

**Wednesday**

01/18/2023

**(1) DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward is in the office this week for entries, scratches, and panel duties. Entries went well, as the ten race card was finalized by mid-afternoon. Ward is writing minutes for the coming week.

**Thursday**  
01/19/2023

**(1) SUNDAY ENTRIES / SCRATCHES / PANEL**

Entries for Sunday are being accepted this morning and it is hoped that the card fills as well as yesterday. Changes were at a minimum; however, during the panel discussion, three horses came under scrutiny and had to be declared. In race one, #9 Quiet Forest, which had not race for over 180 days, was entered as “not to be claimed”, but did not meet the criteria in rule #1634. The horse was entered in a \$2,500.00 claiming race after last starting for \$6,250.00. The rule states that a horse must be entered in a race for the same claiming price or HIGHER. The other two scratches were in race ten. #1 Justamitch did not meet minimum workout requirements, while #3 Bandslammer did not receive a “pre-entry” examination. There were also two “hard watch” horses on the card.

**Friday**  
01/20/2023

**(1) SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

The ten race program was slow to be finalized as Quarter Horse entries were nowhere to be found. At one point, Racing Secretary Scott Craigmyle had eleven thoroughbred races filled, but no short liners. Finally the Quarter Horses appeared and three races are part of the program.

The “panel” met again, with one horse being on the “hard watch” list. One horse was scratched due to a racing office error. The horse’s trainer had entered in a race which did not fill, and in switching the horse to a race which was going to be used, the racing office put the horse in a race where it did not fit- \$2,500 claiming vs. allowance.

**Saturday**  
01/21/2023

**(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race #1 Auntie Bev (Vet- injured) Refund of \$129.30
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Race #6 Driskill (Vet- injured) Refund of \$58.25
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Race #6 Rusty Cage (Vet- injured) Refund of \$60.40
- 4<sup>th</sup> Race #6 Pick Your Bid (Stewards-Owner not licensed) Refund of \$44.25
- 6<sup>th</sup> Race #4 Gypsy V Bar (Stewards-no pre-race exam)  
#5 Big Mama Thornton (Vet- injured) Refund of \$203.45
- 10<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Bandslammer (Stewards-no pre-race exam) Refund of \$34.00

**(2) RULING**

**Ruling # 10**

TRAINER JUAN ALEMAN, WHO STARTED THE HORSE “MORNINGS WITH MARIA”, AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 2, 2022, IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)\* AND ASSESSED 1/2 POINT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1843.4 MULTIPLE MEDICATION VIOLATIONS (EXPIRES OCTOBER 1, 2023 PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1887 (TRAINER OR OWNER TO INSURE CONDITION OF HORSE) AND 1843.2 (CLASSIFICATION OF DRUG SUBSTANCES), FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULES #1843 (A, & D) (MEDICATION, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES), #1843.1 (A) (PROHIBITED DRUG SUBSTANCES – COBALT- FIRST VIOLATION WITHIN THE PAST 365 DAYS).

This ruling was issued to finalize the complaint against the trainer. The decision was majority, as Steward Nuesch felt that an increased fine was in order due to the purse of the race in which the violation took place. The majority felt the minimum fine was sufficient as Mr. Aleman had not had a violation in two years.

**(3) RULING**

**Ruling # 11**

JOCKEY RICARDO S. RAMIREZ IS SUSPENDED FOR THREE (3) RACING DAYS (JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 29<sup>TH</sup>, AND FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2023) FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (c)(2) (USE OF RIDING CROP- CROP IN THE OVERHAND POSITION) WHILE RIDING ASIAN RAIN IN THE THIRD RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JANUARY 8, 2023.

This ruling was issued after Mr. Ramirez viewed the third race from January 8<sup>th</sup>, during which he struck his mount with his crop in the overhand position. The rider admitted his mistake, stating that he became confused regarding the rule. That night he had previously ridden in a race in which the crop could be used overhand.

It should be noted that we understand the confusion facing the riders – underhand in one race and then, in another race only 10 yards shorter, the crop can be turned up. They also face the problem of using different crops in races – one HISA compliant and the other CHRB compliant.

**(4) BACKSTRETCH CAMERA PROBLEM**

Just prior to the fourth race, the video department notified us that the backstretch head-on camera had lost power. Drone operator Jim Porep once again came to the rescue and provided a drone shot from in front of the field which was equal to, if not superior to, the regular head-on shot. Power was back for the next race.

**(5) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	632	\$99,100.80
Off track	1,094	\$275,719.40
Out of state	N/A	\$852,131.35
Total	1,726	\$1,226,951.55

**Sunday**  
01/22/2023

**(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race #3 Champessa (Vet-injured)  
#4 Wesley's Boy (Vet-injured) Refund of \$926.20
- 4<sup>th</sup> Race #6 Single Merit (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$535.80
- 7<sup>th</sup> Race #1 Being Blessed (Vet- injured) Refund of \$94.40

**(2) RIDERS EXCUSED**

Erasmio Gasca and Armando Viramontes were excused from their mounts this evening due to illness. Replacement riders were announced.

**(3) REFUND**

A refund was ordered in the eighth race as #5 JB Brown Eyes broke through the starting gate doors during the loading procedure, unseated the rider and ran off. The refund from the late declaration amounted to \$18,069.65. The rider, Henry Reynoso Lopez, was not injured.

**(4) GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT ERROR**

The Stewards received a call from Racing Secretary Scott Craigmyle during wagering for the ninth race that graphics were showing #4 Fast Secret as scratched. A quick check of the Totalizator board and with the Parimutuel department established that the horse was never out of the wagering pools. The decision was made to leave the horse in the system and announcements were made to that effect. The horse eventually finished fifth. The video department was contacted and informed that a letter of explanation was needed. This is not the first time the graphics department has erred.

**(5) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	542	\$68,990.10
Off track	960	\$143,078.10
Out of state	N/A	\$1,073,833.25
Total	1,502	\$1,285,901.45

## TRACK SAFETY REPORT

The weekly inspection was conducted on January 22, 2023. There were no equine deaths to report this week. During this reporting period, 10 horses were added to the Veterinarian's List as follows: 3 for soundness and 7 for injury. Five horses previously on the Veterinarian's List were examined and removed from the list. This report was submitted by Steward Tom Ward.

### SUMMARY

	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat 01/21	Sun 01/22	Week	Meet
<b>Accidents</b>	D			0	0	0	0
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A			0	0	0	0
<b>Claims</b>	R			2	3	5	12
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K			0	0	0	1
<b>Inquiries</b>		D		0	0	0	1
<b>Refunds</b>		A		6	4	10	29
<b>Rulings</b>		Y		2	0	2	11
<b>Voided Claims</b>		S		0	0	0	1

Stewards' Attendance: Stewards Tom Ward, James Dreyer, David Nuesch and Safety Steward Paul Atkinson were in attendance during this reporting period.

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Tom Ward, Steward

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James Dreyer, Steward

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David Nuesch, Steward

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Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward