

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95825

[www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov)

(916) 263-6000 Fax (916) 263-6042

**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 March 28, 2023, through April 2, 2023.

**Tuesday**

03/28/2023

**(1) TUESDAY HEARING DAY**

The full board of Stewards met this morning to hear a complaint filed against Dr. Nicola Hardgrove for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1842 (Veterinarian Report) as Dr. Hardgrove failed to submit pre-work examination reports on eight horses in a timely manner – specifically, 26 to 32 days late. All horses were trained by Genaro Vallejo.

Dr. Hardgrove maintained that she filled out the paperwork properly and was told by her secretary that the documents were submitted the following morning. If that is correct, which is problematic, why then did other veterinarians not have the same problem? We will research the matter further and make a decision.

**(2) FATALITY REVIEW**

Tom Ward attended a fatality review this morning which involved a horse trained by Milton Pineda. Dr. Alina Vale chaired the discussion, with Equine Medical Director Jeff Blea and Safety Steward Paul Atkinson also participating in the round table panel. Trainer Pineda was very forthcoming regarding his horse's unfortunate injury and took away some helpful information supplied by Dr.'s Blea and Vale.

**Wednesday**

03/29/2023

**(1) DUTY STEWARD / SATURDAY ENTRIES**

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries, scratches, changes, and panel review. Inclement weather is predicted for today and tomorrow, so the entry process will likely be a slow, laborious process. Ward will be writing minutes for the week, as well.

**Thursday**  
03/30/2023

**(1) SUNDAY ENTRIES / SATURDAY CHANGES / ENTRY PANEL**

As expected, entries were hard to come by, but the intrepid racing office crew managed to gather sufficient horses to fill a nine-race card for Saturday. One thoroughbred, two mixed-breed, and six quarter horse events are on tap. Of the six quarter horse races, four are for two-year-olds. All entrants are "full" two-year-olds, and therefore the connection have complied with section 19668 of the Horse Racing Law, which states that no horse shall be entered until after two years from its foaling date.

The entry panel discussed all horses entered, with one horse being scratched for lack of a veterinary exam within fourteen days of entry. There were also two "hard watch" horses noted for enhanced scrutiny.

**Friday**  
03/31/2023

**(1) SUNDAY PANEL**

The Los Alamitos panel met this morning to go over entries for Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was nothing serious to note, just the minor issues common to most horses. There were no changes. Additionally, all two-year-olds were in compliance with the Horse Racing Law regarding being a full two year old prior to entry.

**Saturday**  
04/01/2023

**(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS**

4<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Agriento (Vet-injured) Refund of \$548.55

6<sup>th</sup> Race #1 Remember My Prize (Stewards-no 14 day layoff exam) Refund of \$98.40

7<sup>th</sup> Race #4 No Sedona (Vet-injured) Refund of \$207.25

**(1) RIDERS EXCUSED**

Jockey Armando Aguilar, who rode the last race at Santa Anita this afternoon, was not able to fulfill his engagement in the first race. A replacement rider was named. Jockey Eduard R. Rojas was excused due to illness. A replacement rider was named.

**(2) VIDEO REVIEW**

Jockey Armando Cervantes was in our office to go over the ninth race from last Sunday, in which his mount was disqualified for interference shortly after the start. Following a video review and discussion, a warning was issued for the ride. The vote was by majority, as Stewards Dreyer and Ward felt that Mr. Cervantes made a reasonable effort on a difficult horse to handle. Steward Nuesch was of the opinion that the rider should have made a stronger effort to prevent the incident.

**(3) RULING**

**Ruling # 30**

VETERINARIAN NICOLA HARDGROVE IS FINED TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00)\* AND SUSPENDED TEN DAYS (APRIL 15 THROUGH APRIL 24, 2023) AND MUST COMPLETE A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE IN MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING ACCEPTABLE TO THE BOARD OF STEWARDS BY MAY 30, 2023 FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1842 (VETERINARY REPORTS – FAILED TO SUBMIT ETRS FORMS IN A TIMELY MANNER) AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE.

This ruling was issued after discussion of the merits of the complaint against Dr. Hardgrove. While her reputation is excellent, she has received a number of complaints and penalties for violations relating to the timely submission of required forms. In fact, the first time she was penalized for a late filing of records was in 2010. With more and more rules in place for the veterinarians, we know it is time consuming, but nonetheless it is essential that the paperwork be done.

**(4) ACCIDENT/ INQUIRY/ NO CHANGE**

The inquiry sign was posted following the fifth race as the Stewards looked in to the reason jockey Armando Viramontes, aboard #6 Famous Wind, was unseated at the mid-point of the 220 yard event. After reviewing the video, the reason was obvious – his mount bolted and tried to "make the gap" at the walking ring entrance to the racetrack. A couple of factors could have contributed to the

horse's actions: she was a first time starter and therefore it was her first time under the lights. Jockey Viramontes was not injured in the incident and was cleared to ride after examination by the paramedics. The horse will be placed on the Steward's List and will need to re-qualify from the gate.

**(5) RIDER EXCUSED**

Cesar Franco was replaced in the eighth race as he was not feeling up to par. A replacement rider was named.

**(6) REFUND**

A refund was ordered in the eighth race as Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald reported that #4 RR Blew Duck was "off" in the left foreleg after warm-up and recommended that the horse be declared. Her recommendation was accepted, with the resulting refund amounting to \$16,667.25.

**(7) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	796	\$114,488.40
Off track	1,213	\$388,453.20
Out of state	N/A	\$1,124,165.64
Total	2,009	\$1,627,107.24

**Sunday**  
04/02/2023

**(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Race #3 Olympic Silver (Vet- injured)  
#5 Divinely Diverse (Vet-sick) Refund of \$371.85  
3<sup>rd</sup> Race #1 Winhappy (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$316.60

**(2) RIDERS EXCUSED**

Francisco Orduna Rojas and Panfilio Alegria were excused from their mounts this evening – Orduna Rojas for illness and Alegria due to transportation issues. Replacement riders were named.

**(3) VIDEO REVIEW**

Jonathan Roman came to our office to review the ninth race from last Sunday, during which he permitted his mount to drift into the path of a competing horse. While the ride was not worthy of a suspension, we wanted to impress on Jonathan the importance of maintaining a straight course.

**(4) ACCIDENT/ INQUIRY/ NO CHANGE**

The inquiry sign was posted after the second race to review the circumstances which caused #4 Autism Ability to fall while racing in the clear on the far turn. After reviewing and speaking with Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald, it was determined that the five year old gelding likely suffered an internal problem as the horse had expired by the time Dr. Fitzgerald arrived on the scene moments after the incident. The rider, Ricardo Ramirez, was found to be uninjured following examination by track paramedics.

**(5) LATE RIDER CHANGES**

The change in maximum overweight rule from seven to five pounds caught up with two of our riders this evening in the sixth and seventh races, as late rider changes had to be announced. Juan Pablo Leon and Jesus Rios Ayala could not come within five pounds of their assigned weight and had to be replaced.

**(6) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	796	\$114,488.40
Off track	1,213	\$388,453.20
Out of state	N/A	\$1,124,165.64
Total	2,009	\$1,627,107.24

## TRACK SAFETY REPORT

The weekly inspection was conducted on April 2, 2023. There was one equine death to report this week due to racing injuries. During this reporting period, 6 horses were added to the Veterinarian's List as follows: 2 for soundness, 3 for injury, and 1 for sickness. Two 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 04/01	Sun 04/02	Week	Meet
<b>Accidents</b>	D			1	1	2	4
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A			0	0	0	0
<b>Claims</b>	R			0	0	0	39
<b>Disqualification</b>	K			0	0	0	4
<b>Inquiries</b>		D		1	1	2	7
<b>Refunds</b>		A		4	2	6	85
<b>Rulings</b>		Y		1	0	1	30
<b>Voided Claims</b>		S		0	0	0	6

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

---

Tom Ward, Steward

---

James Dreyer, Steward

---

David Nuesch, Steward

---

Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward