

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 May 30, 2023, through June 4, 2023.

Tuesday

05/30/2023

(1) TUESDAY HEARINGS

The financial complaint filed by Post Time Insurance against trainer Jeff Engler was heard without Mr. Engler in attendance. Efforts to contact him were not successful. If we do not hear from Mr. Engler by this coming Saturday, a ruling will be issued suspending him for failure to appear.

An informal hearing into a complaint filed against Starter Gary Brinson for violation of rules #1530 (Cases Not Covered by Rules and Regulations) and #1552 (Duties of Starter) was held this morning. On April 16, 2023, the eighth race, scheduled and advertised to be run at 330 yards, was inadvertently run at the incorrect distance of 300 yards (Ref. 4-16-2023).

Mr. Brinson, who has been a Starter for forty-eight years, accepted full responsibility for the error. He said that when the gate was set – at the incorrect distance – he began to school two horses and his focus was on them. He looked at his program but did not check for the 330 yard marker on the inside rail. Mr. Brinson, not realizing the mistake, then radioed the Stewards to report the distance, and received an acknowledgment of 330 yards. He also said that prior to this most unfortunate happening, he did not confirm distances with the tractor driver who positions the gate. He does so now. The Stewards will discuss the case and render a decision this coming weekend.

Wednesday

05/31/2023

(1) DUTY STEWARD

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries, scratches, changes and panel discussion. Ward will also be writing minutes for the week.

A ten race card for this coming Saturday filled fairly well, as entries were drawn by mid-afternoon. Mr. Jeff Engler, who did not respond to his Tuesday morning financial hearing, contacted this office today and has made arrangements to settle his debt to the Post Time Insurance Group.

The results from Sunday's Ed Burke Million Futurity trials are in, and if the results transition over to the finals, it will be a very contentious race. The fastest qualifier was timed in 17.712 seconds, while the final horse – 10th – to make the finals stopped the timer at 17.873 seconds. The entire field was within 0.161 thousandths of a second of one another.

Thursday
06/01/2023

(1) SUNDAY ENTRIES / SATURDAY PANEL

Entries for Sunday are being accepted this morning, with the hope that races fill as well as yesterday. The Los Alamitos Panel met by telephone this morning, with one horse making the "hard watch" list for enhanced observation. There were three rider changes on the Saturday card.

Friday
06/02/2023

(1) SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL

The ten race card for Sunday filled rather well, albeit slowly. Races were not drawn until late afternoon. There was one horse scratched from the card as it was incorrectly entered – racing office faux pas. One rider and one equipment change were the only other items of significance. The Los Alamitos Panel convened this morning, with two horses making the "Hard Watch" list.

Saturday
06/03/2023

(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS

2nd Race #5 Henny On Ice (Vet-injured) Refund of \$275.90
4th Race #3 Scatchmejamin (Vet-injured) Refund of \$244.65
5th Race #2 Fire Stel (Vet-injured) Refund of \$208.50

(2) RULING

Ruling # 59

STARTER GARY BRINSON IS FINED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULES #1530 (CASES NOT COVERED BY RULES AND REGULATIONS) AND #1552 (DUTIES OF THE STARTER) - PLACED THE STARTING GATE AT THE WRONG DISTANCE IN THE EIGHTH RACE ON APRIL 16, 2023.

This ruling was issued after the Stewards discussed the merits of the complaint against Mr. Brinson. During the hearing earlier this week, Mr. Brinson stated that he has been a Starter for forty eight years, with his last ruling for a similar occurrence taking place eleven years ago. This Board of Stewards is of the opinion that he is among the best Starters in the game, always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that fields get away with as little interference as possible. The fact that he works with problem horses during warm up may have had a bearing on the incident as he testified that his attention was diverted from the race distance to the horses he had in the gate.

(3) JOCKEY CROP RULINGS

Ruling # 60

JOCKEY OSCAR M PEINADO IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (b) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RUNNING OF THE RACE) WHILE RIDING APOLLITICAL OPEN MRL IN THE FOURTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON MAY 28, 2023.

Ruling # 61

JOCKEY JOSE M. NICASIO IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (b) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RUNNING OF THE RACE) WHILE RIDING BASKING IN THE NINTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON MAY 28, 2023.

These rulings were issued for violations during last weekend's Futurity Trials.

(4) RIDER EXCUSED

Jockey Roberto Hernandez was excused from his mounts this evening due to illness. A replacement rider was named.

(5) LATE RIDER CHANGE

A late rider change in the first race was needed as jockey Ricardo Ramirez, named on #4 Ravenclaw, rode the last race at Santa Anita and could not fulfill the engagement. A replacement rider was named.

(6) DELAY IN FIRST POST

A four minute delay in post for the first race was needed as Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald could not get to the starting gate as someone had absconded with the key to her truck. A golf cart was secured for the first couple of races.

(7) REFUND

A refund was ordered in the first race as #2 Arousing Lover flipped while awaiting the start, prompting Dr. Fitzgerald to recommend that the horse be declared. The refund amounted to \$31,459.79. Fortunately, the rider was not injured.

(8) STEWARDS INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION

The Inquiry sign was posted after the ninth race as the Stewards reviewed the start. Involved were the fourth and sixth place finishers - #2 Famouscard (E. Gasca) and #1 Corona Perrys Bar (K. Camacho). After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Famouscard from fourth to sixth position. The video showed the horse breaking in very sharply, virtually eliminating its inside rival. Gasca was not held responsible for the interference.

(9) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	689	\$111,043.30
Off track	1,158	\$324,302.40
Out of state	N/A	\$975,940.50
Total	1,847	\$1,411,286.20

Sunday
06/04/2023

(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS

1st Race #3 Monarch Girl (Vet-sick) Refund of \$143.10
5th Race #2 Seige The Day (Stewards)
#5 A Bit Much (Stewards) Refund of \$108.15
6th Race #7 C'mon Lets Dance (Vet-injured) Refund of \$103.90

(2) RIDERS EXCUSED

Jockeys Roberto Hernandez and Jesse Gonzalez were excused this evening due to illness. Replacement riders were announced.

(3) RULINGS

Ruling # 62

JOCKEY VICTOR M. SALAZAR IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (b) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RUNNING OF THE RACE) WHILE RIDING OPTICAL ILLUSION IN THE SIXTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON MAY 28, 2023.

This ruling was issued after Mr. Salazar had viewed video of the sixth race on May 28, during which he violated the crop rule. Mr. Salazar said his horse was drifting out and he was trying to correct the drift. It was obvious the horse was getting out, but Salazar was hitting the horse on the flank, not the shoulder, an indication that he was trying to get a response from his mount.

Ruling #63

JOCKEY RICARDO S. RAMIREZ IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1872 (FAILURE TO FULFILL RIDING ENGAGEMENT), CAUSING A LATE RIDER CHANGE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JUNE 3, 2023.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Ramirez missed his engagement in the first race here on Saturday after riding the final race Santa Anita.

(4) VIDEO PROBLEMS

The video department encountered problems for the first race, resulting in limited coverage. Fortunately, the race was interference-free and the situation was rectified by the second event.

(5) REFUND

A refund was ordered in the eighth race as #3 My Favorite Spirit flipped behind the starting gate and ran off into the stable area. Dr. Fitzgerald recommended that the horse be declared, with the refund amounting to \$20,832.56.

(6) TRAINER OBJECTION – NO CHANGE

The Objection sign was posted after the eighth race as trainer Scott Willoughby, whose horse #4 No Can Tell finished fourth, lodged a claim of foul against the second and third place finishers - #2 Cartel Looks Hot and #5 Required Dash – for interference at the start. After reviewing video of the break, the Stewards unanimously voted to dismiss the objection as, while there was contact between all three horses, the incident was minor and did not cost No Can Tell the chance for a better placing.

(7) ACCIDENT/ INQUIRY/ DISQUALIFICATION

The inquiry sign was posted after the tenth race as the Stewards reviewed the cause of a spill involving #6 Slews Fortune, ridden by Victor Salazar. After reviewing video of the accident, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify #7 Walk To The Top from fifth to “unplaced”. Video documented that the horse drifted in slightly while the affected horse came out marginally. The combination caused Slews Fortune to clip heels and fall. Reports indicated that Mr. Salazar was not seriously injured and the horse was none the worse for wear. Jockey Erasmo Gasca will review video next Saturday.

(8) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	568	\$84,432.30
Off track	1,003	\$278,440.80
Out of state	N/A	\$1,247,849.14
Total	1,571	\$1,610,722.24

TRACK SAFETY REPORT

The weekly inspection was conducted on June 4, 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, 6 for injury, and 1 for sickness. Seven 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 06/03	Sun 06/04	Week	Meet
Accidents	D			0	1	1	7
Cal-Bred Races	A			0	0	0	0
Claims	R			1	3	4	70
Disqualification	K			1	1	2	11
Inquiries		D		1	2	3	16
Refunds		A		4	4	8	256
Rulings		Y		3	2	5	63
Voided Claims		S		0	0	0	14

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

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward