

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 August 23, 2023, through August 27, 2023.

Wednesday

08/23/2023

(1) DUTY STEWARD/ SATURDAY ENTRIES

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries, scratches, and changes. The entry process for Saturday went well, as the ten-race card was drawn shortly after 2:30 P.M. Ward will be writing minutes for the coming week.

Thursday

08/24/2023

(1) SUNDAY ENTRIES/ SATURDAY SCRATCHES-CHANGES/ SATURDAY PANEL/ HEARING DAY

There were scratches, rider changes, equipment, and weight changes at scratch time for Saturday. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning via telephone, with one horse being scratched for lack of a regulatory exam after being on the sidelines for more than 120 days. There were also two "hard watch" horses. Entries for Sunday were completed by mid-afternoon. A ten-race card is on tap, headed by the Grade 1 Go Man Go Handicap featuring Empressum and Scoops Dynasty, two of the top older Quarter Horses in the nation.

(2) HEARING CONTINUED

A hearing scheduled for this morning – CHRB VS Robert Lucas – was re-scheduled for September 7th as Mr. Lucas objected to the hearing going forward without the presence of a court reporter. He stated that "whistleblower" issues could come into play and wanted a clean record. What was meant by that statement is unclear at this time.

Friday

08/25/2023

(1) SUNDAY SCATCHES/ CHANGES/ PANEL

Changes for Sunday were few; however, after the panel session, the program will have two fewer starters. In race three, #6 Organized Chaos was declared as Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald informed

that the horse was not allowed to race due to veterinary concerns. The second scratch was in race six, where #1 Connorsdashingmemory was found to be non-compliant with California Horse Racing Law #19583.7, as the horse, in the opinion of the veterinarians, did not have a shed row examination by a regulatory veterinarian after having been off for 120 days. This writer did not agree with their decision – the horse was running on day 120; however, rather than getting into a drawn out discussion, the scratch was accepted.

Saturday
08/26/2023

(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS

1st Race #5 Swamp'n Ain't Easy (Vet-injured) Refund of \$261.75
2nd Race #1 Fever (Stewards)
#5 Prettyonthetrack (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$454.95
4th Race #5 El Diablo Rojo (Stewards) Refund of \$652.15
7th Race #7 Fancy Like Lili (Vet-sick) Refund of \$853.50
8th Race #7 Chamukini (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$91.70

(2) CASE DISMISSED

Complaint #23LA0039, filed by the Board investigators against the connection of the horse Rock N Rye was unanimously dismissed by the Stewards who heard the case – Tom Ward, Paul Atkinson, and Ron Church – as it was felt that the Board did not meet the burden of proof for disqualification. On the surface, it would appear that criteria was met, However, after examining all of the facts in the case, the Stewards felt that the connections had no way of protecting themselves. According to Equine Medical Director Dr. Jeff Blea, the horse was NOT on the Veterinarian's List, or any other list, but needed to work for the vet as it had been off for over a year. The horse worked 5/8th at Santa Anita on March 6th, and was tested following the work, The Board had information regarding the horse's failed test for Methocarbamol on March 14th, but information was not disseminated to the field office until March 17th. Even though the investigators at Santa Anita had the information prior to the race on March 18th, such information was not passed on to the connections until the day AFTER the race, March 19th.

(3) RULING

Ruling # 102

JOCKEY IRVING LARA, WHO RODE HEZ APOLLITICAL IN THE FOURTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON AUGUST 19, 2023, IS SUSPENDED FOR TWO (2) RACING DAYS (SEPTEMBER 2ND AND 3RD, 2023) FOR FAILURE TO MAKE THE PROPER EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A STRAIGHT COURSE LEAVING THE STARTING GATE, CAUSING INTERFERENCE WHICH RESULTED IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF HIS MOUNT FROM FOURTH TO SEVENTH POSITION. THIS CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1699 (RIDING RULES- CARELESS RIDING).

This ruling was issued after Mr. Lara had viewed the fourth race from August 19th, following which his mount was disqualified for interference at the start. In a majority decision, the rider was issued a two day suspension as it was felt that he could have reacted faster to prevent interference. The minority – Ward – was of the opinion that the contact took place in the second stride and that the rider's actions, or lack thereof, did not warrant a penalty.

(4) RULING

Ruling # 103

JOCKEY OSCAR M. PEINADO IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (b) (7) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN TWICE IN SUCCESSION WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND) WHILE RIDING NEXT LEVEL UP IN THE SIXTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON AUGUST 19, 2023.

The preceding ruling was issued after Mr. Peinado had viewed the sixth race from August 19, during which he struck his mount three times in succession. He did not dispute the violation.

(5) RULING

Ruling #104

TRAINER JOSE HERNANDEZ, JR. IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00*) FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1530 (CASES NOT COVERED BY RULES AND REGULATIONS – STRIKING HIS MOUNT WHILE ON RACE TRACK DURING MORNING TRAINING).

This ruling was issued in response to a security report which named Mr. Hernandez as the individual who was observed striking his mount in the head with his hand while on the track during morning training hours. Mr. Hernandez admitted hitting the horse, stating that it was quite difficult to control and he was concerned for his safety. He was told that there is never an occasion when it is acceptable to hit a horse on the head and a repeat violation would result in a much more stringent penalty.

(6) QUIET EVENING

All matters occurring during the racing program were routine. Last post was 11:10 P.M.

(7) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	829	\$91,423.10
Off track	1,250	\$270,251.30
Out of state	N/A	\$983,288.61
Total	2,079	\$1,344,963.01

Sunday
08/27/2023

(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS

3rd Race #6 Organized Chaos (Vet-not cleared to enter) Refund of \$54.55
6th Race #1 Connorsdashingmemory (Vet-no layoff exam) Refund of \$30.00
10th Race #1 Eye On The Sky (Stakes) Refund of \$109.70

(2) RIDERS EXCUSED

Jockeys Armando Viramontes and Juan Pablo Leon were excused from their mounts due to illness. Replacement riders were announced.

(3) STEWARDS' INQUIRY INTO START – HORSE DECLARED NON-STARTER

The inquiry sign was posted after the fifth race as the Stewards reviewed the start of #1 Bella Hunting, who had broken very slowly. After speaking with Starter Gary Brinson and reviewing video of the start, the Stewards unanimously voted to declare Bella Hunting a non-starter and refund all single race wagers on the horse. Video replay showed that the horse lifted as the stall doors opened and the assistant starter did not turn the horse loose, perhaps thinking that it might flip. Consequently, the horse was denied the opportunity for a failure start. The refund amounted to \$15,160.41.

(4) ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	667	\$93,143.90
Off track	931	\$195,935.20
Out of state	N/A	\$1,150,302.24
Total	1,598	\$1,439,381.34

TRACK SAFETY REPORT

The weekly inspection was conducted on August 27, 2023. There were no equine deaths to report this week. During this reporting period, 7 horses were added to the Veterinarian's List as follows: 5 for soundness, 1 for injury, and 1 for sickness. There were no horses previously on the Veterinarian's List. This report was submitted by Steward Tom Ward.

SUMMARY

	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat 08/26	Sun 08/27	Week	Meet
Accidents	D			0	0	0	11
Cal-Bred Races	A			0	0	0	16
Claims	R			1	6	7	104
Disqualifications	K			0	0	0	22
Inquiries		D		0	1	1	36
Refunds		A		5	4	9	346
Rulings		Y		3	0	3	104
Voided Claims		S		0	0	0	22

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

Respectfully,

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward