

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing Association Cypress, 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 Brenda Washington Davis, Member  
Honorable Thomas C. Hudnut, Member  
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C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director  
Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division  
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

### **Report of the Board of Stewards for November 15, 2023, through November 19, 2023.**

#### **WEDNESDAY**

11/15/23<sup>1</sup>

#### **DUTY STEWARD/ SATURDAY ENTRIES**

Tom Ward will be handling entries, changes and Panel this week as well as writing the minutes. Jim Dreyer filled in for Ward today as Ward sat in on a hearing at Santa Anita. Entries for Saturday filled well, as the ten race program was finalized by mid-afternoon.

#### **THURSDAY**

11/16/23<sup>1</sup>

#### **TWO MILLION TRIALS DRAW/ SATURDAY PANEL/ HEARING DAY**

The draw for Sunday's Two Million Trials took place today, as fourteen races will be on tap. Scratches for Saturday were nil, and changes were limited to three rider changes and one equipment change. The Los Alamitos Panel met, with two "Hard Watch" horses being selected for enhanced scrutiny.

Two hearings were held this morning for an incident which took place in August of this year. Assistant Trainer Sergio Zepeda and Trainer Salvador Naranjo were summoned to the office for a formal hearing into the facts which led to the declaration of three of Naranjo's horses on August 25, 2023.

The investigators had information which led them to believe that the Naranjo barn might be giving electrolytes to entered horses following Lasix administration. On the date in question, Investigators, along with Safety Steward Paul Atkinson, went to Mr. Naranjo's barn around the time that Lasix would be given. They observed Mr. Zepeda enter the stall of a horse named "Fever", scheduled to race in that evening's second race, shortly after the vet technician left. Upon entering the stall, they found a bucket containing three dose syringes, two full and one empty. When confronted, Mr. Zepeda stated that he had not given anything to any of the horses entered that night,

but did not explain why one of the syringes was empty. As a precaution, all three horses were scratched.

Today, both Mr. Zepeda and Mr. Naranjo explained that a horse in the barn, Dallas Alice, was having trouble keeping weight on itself so he instructed Mr. Zepeda to give the horse a product called Platinum Healthy Weight Omega 3 Fatty Acids along with brown sugar three times daily. He said he gave one syringe in the morning and that was the reason for the one syringe being empty.

Mr. Naranjo admitted that having the syringes in the stall of an entered runner was a violation, even though the substance was innocuous. He accepted responsibility for the error. A decision will be formulated this weekend.

**FRIDAY**  
11/17/23<sup>1</sup>

### **SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

As one might expect, there were no changes for Sunday's 2 Million Trials. The Panel met again, with no problems to report. It should be a good weekend of racing, if the weather cooperates.

**SATURDAY**  
11/18/23<sup>1</sup>

### **EARLY DECLARATIONS**

1 <sup>st</sup> Race	#8 Mighty Ruler (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$287.11
2 <sup>nd</sup> Race	#6 Lady Brett (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$440.33
3 <sup>rd</sup> Race	#3 Blameless (Vet-injured) #7 Scratchy Apache (Vet-unsound) Refund of \$316.40
7 <sup>th</sup> Race	#3 First Time We Met (Vet-sick) Refund of \$146.65
9 <sup>th</sup> Race	#4 Mister Bigg (Vet-injured) Refund of \$108.30

11/18/23<sup>2</sup>

### **OFFICIAL UNDER THE WEATHER**

Dr. Rebecca Fitzgerald will not be at her position as Racing Veterinarian this evening due to illness. Her position will be taken by Dr. Bryn Moser.

11/18/23<sup>3</sup>

### **RULING**

#### **Ruling #138**

Jockey Jesus Rios Ayala is fined THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (3) (Use of Riding Crop – struck mount with crop during warm up period) while riding El Aventurero in the ninth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on November 12, 2023.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Ayala admitted to the violation. He was contrite, stating that it would not happen again.

11/18/23<sup>4</sup>

### **RULING**

#### **Ruling #139**

Owner John F. James, having complied with the provisions of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1876 (Financial Responsibility - \$1,081.41 to KC Horse Transportation), is restored to good standing. Ruling #LAQL066, issued at Los Alamitos Racing Association on April 19, 2021, is set aside.

The preceding ruling was issued after we received notification from KC Horse Transportation that the delinquent bill had been satisfied.

11/18/23<sup>5</sup>

**RULINGS**

**Ruling #140**

Trainer Salvador Naranjo is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rules #1843.5 (c) (Medication, drugs and other substances permitted after entry in a race) and #1887 (Trainer or Owner to insure condition of horse).

**Ruling #141**

Assistant Trainer Sergio P. Zepeda is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1843.5 (c) (Medication, drugs and other substances permitted after entry in a race).

These rulings were issued to finalize the complaints against the individuals. With circumstances as they appeared at the outset, the scratching of the horses was necessary. Even though there were no prohibited drugs found in the samples, three horses were not able to start. We felt that blame was equal as far as both parties were concerned.

11/18/23<sup>6</sup>

**RIDER EXCUSED**

Jockey Francisco Orduna Rojas was excused from his mounts this evening as he encountered a family emergency. Replacement riders were named.

11/18/23<sup>7</sup>

**ACCIDENT/ INQUIRY/ NO CHANGE**

The inquiry sign was posted after the fourth race as the Stewards reviewed an incident at the start which resulted in jockey Edgar Payeras, aboard #8 Whoa Buddy, being unseated at the start. After reviewing video of the break and speaking with Starter Gary Brinson, the Stewards unanimously voted to make no change to the original placings. Whoa Buddy stumbled sharply in the second stride, causing Mr. Payeras to fall heavily to the track. He was removed from his remaining mounts after examination by paramedics. Replacement riders were named.

11/18/23<sup>8</sup>

**REFUND**

A refund was ordered in the sixth race as #2 Girth injured itself while loading into the starting gate and was declared on the recommendation of Racing Veterinarian Moser. The refund amounted to \$12,782.60.

11/18/23<sup>9</sup>

**STEWARDS' INQUIRY – NO CHANGE**

The Stewards posted the inquiry sign after the sixth race in order to review two incidents in the final 220 yards between the winner, #3 First Emerald (K. Camacho), and the second place horse, #6 Charming Roy (A. Escobedo).

After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the incidents, the Stewards unanimously voted to make no change in the original order of finish. The first incident, which took place as the duo entered the stretch, showed the winner floating the second place horse off of its path. Shortly thereafter, there was contact between the two, with the Place horse being the aggressor. The Stewards felt that the incidents offset one another and therefore no change was needed.

11/18/23<sup>10</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	756	\$101,227.50
Off track	1,241	\$286,382.50
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$892,473.40
Total	1,997	\$1,280,083.40

**SUNDAY**  
11/19/23<sup>1</sup>

**RULINGS**

**Ruling #142**

Jockey Kevin Camacho, having failed to abide by the terms of a financial agreement signed on September 2, 2023, is suspended for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1876 (Financial Responsibility- \$2,782.00 to April Ward).

This ruling was issued as Mr. Camacho, who had been given two and one half months to make the first installment on the financial agreement, failed to make the payment.

**Ruling #143**

Jockey John Raul Valenzuela, Jr., who rode Dorita's Lemon in the fourth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on November 18, 2023, is suspended for three (3) days (November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (d) (3) (Use of Riding Crop – Striking mount with the crop in the overhand position).

The foregoing ruling was issued after Mr. Valenzuela admitted to striking his mount with his crop in the overhand position. He claimed that he was not aware of the prohibition in Quarter Horse races.

**Ruling #144**

Jockey Cesar Franco is fined SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$750.00)\* 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 Stuck In Probate in the ninth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on November 18, 2023.

The aforementioned ruling was issued as video established that Mr. Franco had violated the crop rule. He chose not to come in to mount a defense to his actions.

11/19/23<sup>2</sup>

**STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION**

The inquiry sign was posted after the third race as observation indicated that #4 Political Rivalry (J. Nicasio), the original sixth place finisher, stumbled sharply nearing the finish line. Also involved was the second place horse #7 Apolitical Walk (E. Nicasio). After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Apolitical Walk from second to sixth position. Video showed the horse drifting in during the late stages of the race, taking the path of Political Rivalry and causing that horse to clip heels and stumble sharply. The incident, in the Stewards' opinion, cost horse and rider the opportunity for a better placing and time.

11/19/23<sup>3</sup>

**FAIRLY QUIET EVENING**

Aside from the one disqualification, the other thirteen trials were free from major incidents. Once again, Starter Gary Brinson and his all-star crew of assistants did a fantastic job of getting the two-year-olds away on their 400 yard journey.

11/19/23<sup>4</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	797	\$165,669.90
Off track	1,115	\$310,370.70
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$2,040,665.69
Total	1,912	\$2,516,706.29

## TRACK SAFETY REPORT

The weekly inspection was conducted on November 19, 2023. There were no equine deaths to report. During this reporting period, 9 horses were added to the Veterinarian's List as follows: 5 for soundness, 3 for injury, and 1 for sickness. This report was submitted by Steward Tom Ward.

### SUMMARY

	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat 11/18	Sun 11/19	Week	Meet
<b>Accidents</b>	D			1	0	1	12
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A			0	0	0	16
<b>Claims</b>	R			0	0	0	125
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K			0	1	1	31
<b>Inquiries</b>		D		2	1	3	48
<b>Refunds</b>		A		6	0	6	447
<b>Rulings</b>		Y		4	3	7	144
<b>Voided Claims</b>		S		0	0	0	35

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

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Tom Ward, Steward

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Ron Church, Steward

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James Dreyer, Steward

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Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward