

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
Los Alamitos Race Course
Cypress, California
TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Report for the Week of Wednesday, May 15 through Sunday, May 19, 2024.

WEDNESDAY5/15/24¹**DUTY STEWARD**

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

5/15/24²**SATURDAY ENTRIES AND FATALITY REVIEW**

The entry process for Saturday evening went smoothly, as a nine race card was finalized around 4:00 p.m. Five mixed breed races and four Quarter Horse events will be on tap.

Safety Steward Paul Atkinson and Ward participated in a fatality review along with trainer Jesus Nunez and Equine Medical Director Jeffrey Blea, DVM. Regulatory Veterinarian Jocelyn Lorbiecki was also in attendance. Mr. Nunez' filly Hop On And Ride suffered a catastrophic ankle injury and had to be euthanized back in late December. A good dialog between all in attendance took place.

THURSDAY5/16/24¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES/ PANEL**

Entries for the Sunday card were accepted this morning, with TEN races ultimately being carded. The Los Alamitos panel convened via telephone, and while there were no recommended scratches, two horses were placed on the "Hard Watch" list. Scratch time came and went with only one rider change.

5/16/24²**HEARING**

Groom/Foreman Gabriel Carranza was in the Stewards' office this morning to address a complaint filed by Board Investigators alleging methamphetamine and marijuana usage by Mr. Carranza. Investigator Stuart Ida presented the case for the Board, while Gloria Tobar translated for Mr. Carranza. Licensed by the Board since the 80's, Mr. Carranza admitted to

possession of pipes used to smoke both drugs, stating that he used marijuana to help alleviate pain from a previous back injury and methamphetamine on only two occasions.

We will finalize a decision this weekend.

FRIDAY

5/17/24¹

SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL

Scratches and changes for Sunday were limited to one rider change. The Panel met, with two horses making the "Hard Watch" list. Aside from that, the morning was spent catching up on minutes and paperwork.

SATURDAY

5/18/24¹

EARLY DECLARATIONS

5th Race #4 Big Catty (Vet – injured) Refund of \$29.70

5/18/24²

RIDERS EXCUSED

Martin Arriaga and Juan Pablo Leon were excused from their mounts this evening due to illness. Replacement riders were named.

5/18/24³

RULING

Ruling #70

Groom Gabriel B. Carranza is suspended for THIRTY (30) DAYS (May 26th, 2024 through June 25th, 2024) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1489 (a) (8) (Grounds for denial or refusal of license – use of Methamphetamine and Marijuana), #1900 (Grounds for suspension or revocation), #1890 (Possession of Contraband) and #1891 (Seizure of Contraband).

In addition, Mr. Carranza is placed on probation for as long as he holds a license and must contact Winners Foundation for an evaluation.

During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of Gabriel Carranza are suspended and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board Rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to suspend or fine) Mr. Carranza is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

This ruling was issued to finalize the complaint against Mr. Carranza for use of drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia. Winners Foundation manager Darin Scherer was contacted and reiterated that at this point, he does not feel that Mr. Carranza is in need of in-house treatment. He will, however, be required to attend sessions with Winners and must sign a testing agreement with the Board.

5/18/24⁴

REFUND

A refund was ordered in the sixth race as #4 Naïve (J. Nicasio) unseated the rider during the warm up period and ran off. The resulting refund amounted to \$12,792.35.

5/18/24⁵

EXCELLENT NITECAP

The final race of the evening produced one of the closest finishes in recent memory. The combined margins of the first eight finishers amounted to less than a length.

5/18/24⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	1,044	\$130,337.60
SCOTWINC	1,405	\$281,267.30
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,085,758.68
TOTAL	2,449	\$1,497,363.58

SUNDAY

5/19/24¹

EARLY DECLARATIONS

4th Race #1 Somethingnefarious (Vet-injured)
#6 Anastasio’s Secret (Vet-sick) Refund of \$134.10

5/19/24²

RULING

Ruling #71

Jockey Panfilo V. Alegria is fined ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (7 & 8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than twice in succession without giving the horse a chance to respond and more than six times during the running of the race) while riding Diamond Bac in the sixth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 12, 2024 (third offense in 60 days).

The foregoing ruling was issued after Mr. Alegria admitted to a third violation of the “crop” rule within the past sixty days.

5/19/24³

RIDER EXCUSED

Cerapio Figueroa was excused from his mount this evening due to illness. A replacement rider picked up the mount.

5/19/24⁴

RIDER OBJECTION AND DISQUALIFICATION

As the Stewards were reviewing an incident entering the far turn of the third race, jockey Ricardo Ramirez (2nd, #2 Rock N Roll Song) filed an “Objection” against jockey Cesar Ortega (1st, #4 Paid In Gold) for interference at that point.

After speaking with the riders and reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Paid in Gold from first to second position. The drone shot clearly shows Paid In Gold, who was on the outside of a three-horse-spread, shifting in at the point of the turn to cause significant crowding and contact between itself, the second place finisher, and #3 Jaycee, who finished a well-beaten fifth. It was the Stewards opinion the interference cost Mr. Ramirez and his mount the chance for a better placing as the margin at the finish was a “head”.

As an aside, had the drone not been available, the decision would have been much more difficult. The backstretch head-on shows contact, but not who was responsible. The drone eliminates what was once a “blind spot” on the track.

Mr. Ortega will visit us next Saturday for video review.

5/19/24⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	582	\$89,262.00
SCOTWINC	1,003	\$241,605.40
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,524,560.73
TOTAL	1,585	\$1,855,428.13

SUMMARY

	Fri	Sat 5/18	Sun 5/19	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	2
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	3	5	8	56
Disqualifications	K	0	1	1	14
Inquiries		0	1	1	26
Refunds	D	2	1	3	116
Rulings	A	1	1	2	71
Voided Claims	Y	0	0	0	22

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:ap