

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
www.chrb.ca.gov



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
Alameda County Fair
Pleasanton, CA
TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman
Honorable Dennis V. Alfieri, Member
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Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division
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Report for the Week of Monday June 24, 2024, through Sunday, June 30, 2024.

WEDNESDAY6/26/24¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Changes to Friday's card and entries for Saturday were under the direction of Steward **Richard Lewis**. The overnight provided showed seven (7) races with forty-five (45) entrants featuring the \$50,000 Oak Tree Sprint.

An Entry Panel to look into Friday's thirty- five (35) runners was directed by **Dr. Lorbiecki** and included **Drs. Blea, Franklin & Grande**. CARF representative **Juliana Gomes** and Steward **Lewis** filled out the remaining spots.

THURSDAY6/27/24¹**BENITEZ HEARING (24GG0012)**

The Full Board of Stewards were present to adjudicate a CHRB complaint filed by Investigator **Jennifer Tolman** as part of a follow-up to PRA Ruling #56 dated April 12, 2024, Failure to Appear.

Present for the hearing was groom **Ramiro Benitez** accompanied by his son, **Luis Benitez**, and aided by interpreter **Thomas Alvarez**. **Christine Niccoli** was the Court Reporter for the hearing.

A twenty (20) page complaint was presented by **Miss Tolman** which included two CHRB Rulings and five photos. Rule #1489 (a)(8), #1874, #1900 & #1902 were read as being violated. **Mr. Benitez** was involved in a verbal altercation on February 17, 2024 and during the investigation appeared to have a strong odor of alcohol. Due to being on a testing agreement the CHRB Investigators tested him and the Quest Results were positive for marijuana, amphetamines and methamphetamine.

During the hour plus hearing, testimony was heard and evidence was presented and documented.

FRIDAY
6/28/24¹

DECLARATIONS CHANGES & REFUNDS

1ST Race Declaration #2 **Ammara** (Tr. **G. Haley**) sick – **M. Christian DVM**

Refunds: \$133.00

2ND Race Declaration #1 **Wrong Direction** (Tr. **F. Rodriguez**) sick – **M. Christian DVM**

Refunds: \$141.00

5TH Race Declaration #6 **Party with Paddy** (Tr. **I. Tamayo**) sick – **M. Christian DVM**

Refunds: \$52.88

6TH Race Declaration #6 **Apple Warrior** (Tr. **S. Calvario**) sick – **M. Christian DVM**

Refunds: \$266.76

6/28/24²

VERGOS RULING (REF: 24GG0049)

The following Reinstatement Ruling was issued after San Francisco Equine, Inc notified the panel in writing that the debt had been paid in full.

PLN RULING #07

Owner **GEORGE VERGOS** having satisfied the outstanding financial obligation to **SAN FRANCISCO EQUINE, INC (\$1,753.50)**, his license privileges are restored to Good Standing and Pacific Racing Association Ruling #95, dated June 7, 2024 is hereby set aside.

6/28/24³

HIWU DQ

The following disqualification was produced after receiving notice from HIWU that Final Sanction Letter was sent as the appeal period had expired with regards to **Cousin Richie**.

PLN RULING #8

Acting upon notice from Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit (HIWU) that the post-race sample obtained from the horse, **Cousin Richie**, who finished fourth in the fifth race at Golden Gate Fields on April 13, 2024, contained the Controlled Medication Substance, Omeprazole Sulfide (Class C), it is hereby ordered that **Cousin Richie** be disqualified and deemed unplaced.

The consequences of disqualification include forfeiture of all purses and repayment of such to the race organizer (ADMC Program Rule #3321 – disqualification of the covered horse's results).

As directed it is further ordered that all purse monies earned or awarded to Owner **Larry Odbert** be returned to the Paymaster of Purses at Golden Gate Fields on or before July 31, 2024. For redistribution pursuant to California Horse Racing Board Rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to be Withheld).

All records are ordered changed to reflect this ruling in accordance with California Horse Racing Board Rule #1956 (Race Declared Official). Neither parimutuel payoffs nor the distribution of any parimutuel pool shall be affected.

6/28/24⁴

HUGO HERRERA RULING

Jockey **Hugo Herrera** appeared to review Sunday's last race. Switching lanes without clearance inside the eighth pole was subject of this review, after hearing **Mr. Herrera's** defense the following ruling was published.

PLN RULING #09

Jockey **HUGO HERRERA** who rode **CHICKENFINGERFRIDAY** in the eighth race, at the Alameda County Fair on Sunday June 23,2024, is suspended five (5) racing days, July 5, 6, 7, 12 & 13, 2024* for failure to maintain a straight course in the stretch and causing interference – a violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1699 (b) (Riding Rules – Careless Riding, Second Offense in sixty days).

California Horse Racing Board Rule #1766 (b) The term of this suspension shall not prohibit participation in Designated Races in California.

6/28/24⁵

RACE 3 – LATE SCRATCHES

The six-horse field was reduced to four wagering interests after two Vet recommended withdrawals. During the Post Parade #6 **Crowning Gold**, was reported to be unsound in the right fore by **Dr. Cloninger**. The horse was the even money favorite when the Stewards scratched him.

As the field was loading #1, **Strength of Autism**, became unruly in the starting gate and threw his head hitting the stall divider. Upon examination **Dr. Cloninger** reported a small cut in the horse's lip was seen with traces of blood, triggering the scratch. This also called for the cancellation of the show pool, this resulted in the third consecutive four horse field.

6/28/24⁶

RACE 4 – VOIDED CLAIM

#4 **Evenerevenworse** was sent to the test barn to have a post-race claim examination. During that process **Dr. Franklin** found the horse to be "off" and put the six-year-old on the Vet's list. This action caused the Stewards to void the claim submitted by trainer **Jose Puentes**.

6/28/24⁷

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	3,250	\$180,516.60
SCOTWINC		\$331,551.25
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$58,271.10
TOTAL	3,822	\$804,956.65

SATURDAY

6/29/24¹

DECLARATIONS CHANGES & REFUNDS

4TH Race Declaration #2 **Conquest Secret** (Tr. **S. Perez**) sick – **C. Cox, DVM**

Refunds: \$21.60

6TH Race Declaration #3 **Doo Wop Don** (Tr. **S. Calvario**) injured – **M. Christian, DVM**

Refunds: \$149.10

6/29/24²

SANTOS RIVERA FILMS

Jockey **Santos Rivera** presented himself as requested to watch video from Race 2 on Friday. Video shows his mount #3 **It Aint Over** drifting inward nearing the finish line putting the squeeze on Jockey **Frank Alvarado** aboard the eventful winner #5 **Brother O'Brien**.

Mr. Rivera is now aware that he must make an effort to maintain a straight course at all times. The full panel agreed that a warning was sufficient.

6/29/24³

APPRENTICE FILM REVIEW

Apprentice **Micah Meeks** attended film review as she made her second journey around the oval in Friday's third race. Her only flaw was breaking with a strong left-handed hold causing her mount to toss its head. We let her know that, especially in four horse fields as this race was your best be ready at all times once the tailgates are closed.

6/29/24⁴

FINANCIAL HEARINGS

Two financial hearings were on the agenda. Both involved **Andrade’s Feed Company** versus two suspended trainers for past due balances.

(A) 24GG0051 Trainer **Quinn Howey** (#288006 Exp. 04/26) in the amount of \$21,257.45

(B) 24GG0050 Trainer **Leanna Ekstrom** (#401491 Exp. 10/25) for \$27,636.29

A representative from **Andrade’s Feed Company Sandra Media**, was present. Neither **Mr. Howey** or **Ms. Ekstrom** contacted this office and will remain suspended from previous FTA’s, **Quinn Howey**, PRA Ruling #93 dated June 7, 2024 and **Leanna Ekstrom**, PRA Ruling #86 dated May 26, 2024.

6/29/24⁵

CLEAR AFTERNOON

The seven-race program was free from inquires and objections.

6/29/24⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	6,350	\$308,857.70
SCOTWINC		\$706,091.20
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$126,564.60
TOTAL	7,442	\$1,732,298.66

SUNDAY

6/30/24¹

DECLARATIONS CHANGES & REFUNDS

3RD Race Declaration #4 **Night Proof** (Tr. **I. Tamayo**) injured – **Mark Christian, DVM**

Refunds: See Below

3RD Race Declaration #5 **Anitanewmercedes** (Tr. **I. Tamayo**) sick – **Mark Christian, DVM**

Refunds: \$ 200.90 (NO SHOW WAGERING)

5TH Race Declaration #5 **A Perfect Storm** (Tr. **J. Bonde**) sick – **C. Cox, DVM**

Refunds: \$5,294.87

6/30/24²

JOCKEY’S GUILD

Jockey’s Guild Representative **Darrell Haire** stopped in to discuss various topics ranging from new HISA crop penalties to Jockey concerns. The major topic centered around the “Post Time” schedule regarding loading of horses in the gate. He hit on a few good points and we told him we have been and will continue to keep a vigilant eye on this process.

6/30/24³

EMMANUEL CRUZ MEETING

Groom **Emmanuel Cruz** (Expired License #318401) appeared to renew his license. **Mr. Cruz** was accompanied by Trainer **Monty Meier**. A prior ruling, PRA #5 dated September 3, 2023, stated that **Mr. Cruz** must be evaluated by the Winner’s Foundation. A letter from Alameda Health System indicating **Mr. Cruz** could return to his usual work duties was acceptable to Winners Foundation.

Prior to relicensing **Mr. Cruz** must remain on a testing agreement, submit a negative test and be employed by Trainer **Monty Meier**.

6/30/24⁴

RACE 5 PADDOCK SCRATCH

While the horses were in the paddock being saddled, #2 **Jazzy Empress** flipped hitting her head **Dr. Cloninger** radioed that the filly was injured. We scratched her with 10 minutes to post. The field left the paddock with two minutes to post and arrived at the gate six minutes later.

When the race was over, we were notified that the injured horse suffered a traumatic injury which put the equine ambulance into service. There was a delay in removing the horse which resulted in the sixth race post adjusting from 4:21 – 4:45.

There will be a follow up when we return to the office with all parties involved in order to find a solution to the delay that occurred, should an incident such as this be repeated, making the process work smoother and quicker.

6/30/24⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	4,940	\$305,918.50
SCOTWINC		\$503,249.05
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$129,011.40
TOTAL	5,762	\$1,353,757.13

SUMMARY

	Fri 6/28	Sat 6/29	Sun 6/30	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	0
Cal-Bred Races	0	0	0	0	0
Claims	0	1	1	2	10
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	0
Inquiries	0	1	0	1	1
Refunds	4	2	3	9	19
Rulings	3	0	0	3	9
Voided Claims	1	0	0	1	1

Richard Lewis, Steward

Calvin Rainey, Steward

John Herbuveaux, Steward

BOS:RL:lw