

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

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
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, July 10 through Sunday, July 14, 2024.

WEDNESDAY7/10/24¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Steward Ron Church was present to oversee entries for Saturday, July 13, 2024, and will record the minutes for this reporting period.

THURSDAY7/11/24¹**ENTRIES AND SCRATCHES**

Steward Ron Church was once again present to oversee entries for Sunday, July 14, 2024, and changes to Saturday's program.

7/11/24²**ENTRY PANEL**

The entry panel met this morning to discuss Saturday's program. After reviewing all entries, there was one entry listed as a hard watch.

7/11/24³**FELIX GONZALEZ – (CASE #24LA0064)**

An informal hearing was held this morning to address a complaint filed against Mr. Gonzalez by the California Horse Racing Board, alleging a violation of CHRB rule #1846.2 (Training Soundness Examination).

Mr. Gonzalez testified that he was not aware of CHRB rule #1846.2 and accepted responsibility for the violation. Decision forthcoming.

7/11/24⁴**OSCAR HEREDIA – (CASE #24LA0063)**

Mr. Heredia appeared this morning to address a complaint filed against him by the CHRB alleging a violation of CHRB rule #1846.2 (Training Soundness Examination).

Mr. Heredia acknowledged his error stating that he was unaware of the rule and accepted responsibility for the violation. Decision forthcoming.

7/11/24⁵**SALLY RIVERA – (CASE #24LA0069)**

A formal hearing was held this morning for trainer Sally Rivera who has been charged with alleged violation of California Horse Racing Board rules #1489(a)(3) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License), #1501 (Workers Compensation Insurance Required), #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation), and #1902 (Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing).

Present for the hearing were Ms. Rivera, who waived her right to counsel, her owner William Heck, Mr. Zach Howe CIFI, SCLA Special Investigations Unit Manager (Berkshire Hathaway Direct Insurance Company) who attended via Microsoft teams and the Board of Stewards Tom Ward, James Dreyer and Ron Church, CHRB Investigator Vittorio Racowschi who presented the case and Court Reporter Michelle Derieg recorded the proceedings.

The above charges against Ms. Rivera were filed by the CHRB Investigators after they were notified by the CHRB Licensing department on April 7, 2024, that her workmen's compensation insurance policy had been cancelled on June 25, 2023. Ms. Rivera was operating a racing stable, racing and training horses at Los Alamitos Race Course, until it was discovered on April 7, 2024, that she was operating without a current workmen's compensation insurance policy. Documentary evidence was submitted, testimony taken, and the hearing was closed. Decision to follow.

FRIDAY
7/12/24¹

ENTRY PANEL

The entry panel met this morning to discuss Sunday's program. After reviewing all entries, there was one entry listed as a hard watch.

7/12/24²

SCRATCHES AND CHANGES

Steward Ron Church was present to oversee scratches and changes to Sunday's program.

SATURDAY
7/13/24¹

RULING #101

Ruling #101

Jockey Cruz Mendez 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 VF Bonafide in the sixth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 7, 2024 (second offense within the past sixty days).

Jockey Cruz Mendez called after the running of the fourth race on Sunday July 7, 2024, and accepted responsibility for violating the crop rule and accepted the penalty imposed.

7/13/24²

RULING #102

Ruling #102

Jockey John Valenzuela, Jr. 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 RF Brandy in the third race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 7, 2024.

The foregoing ruling was issued after Jockey John Valenzuela Jr. failed to meet with the Stewards, as directed, to review his use of the crop in the third race on Sunday, July 7, 2024.

7/13/24³

RULINGS #103 AND #104

Ruling #103

Trainer Felix Gonzalez is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1846.2 (Training Soundness Examination).

Ruling #104

Trainer Oscar Heredia is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1846.2 (Training Soundness Examination).

The above rulings were issued after Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Heredia met with the Stewards and acknowledged they failed to meet the requirements of CHRB rule #1846.2 and accepted the penalty imposed.

7/13/24⁴

INQUIRY – NO CHANGE - 4TH RACE

Following the running of the fourth race, we posted the inquiry sign to examine an incident at the start involving #5 Betting Fever (C. Ortega) last, #4 Stay Zappy (3rd J. Valenzuela Jr.) and #3 Charlottes Delight (4th E. Garcia). Video showed that #5 broke in sharply making contact with #4 causing that rival to shift in and make contact with #3 who broke slowly. Given that #5 Betting Fever was the cause of the problem and finished last, we unanimously voted to make no change to the original order of finish.

7/13/24⁵

DECLARATIONS/ CHANGES/ REFUNDS

1st Race No Changes
2nd Race #7 Baladan (Tr. J. Mendoza) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$112.70
3rd Race No Changes
4th Race #6 Rippin A Way (Tr. R. Hanson) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$903.12
5th Race No Changes
6th Race No Changes
7th Race #2 Unconditional Love (Tr. A. Farias) Unsound Post Parade - Dr. Moser Refund: \$6,059.90
8th Race No Changes

7/13/24⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	6,232	\$164,043.70
SCOTWINC	1,190	\$363,223.80
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$751,085.51
TOTAL	7,422	\$1,278,353.01

SUNDAY

7/14/24¹

DECLARATIONS/ CHANGES/ REFUNDS

1st Race #4 Time To Smile (Tr. A. Aquino) – Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$404.50
#8 Harbor’s Rose (Tr. J. De Jesus) – Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$181.73
2nd Race #4 Yaleo (Tr. A. Garcia) – Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$195.48
3rd Race #6 Tangledupingrey (Tr. G. Vallejo) – Claimed by Tr. T. Abraham
4th Race # Nice and True (Jockey F. Ramirez) Replaced by A. Escobedo
5th Race No Changes
6th Race #5 Val Prince (Jockey E. Garcia) Replaced by D. Morones
#6 Just A Fooler (Jockey J. Ayala) Replaced by H. Lopez
7th Race No Changes
8th Race #2 R Ladys Dynasty (H. Taylor) – Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$353.24

7/14/24²

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	655	\$81,454.70
SCOTWINC	865	\$205,900.30
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,013,290.15
TOTAL	1,520	\$1,300,645.15

SUMMARY

	Fri	Sat 7/13	Sun 7/14	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	2
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	7
Claims	R	0	1	1	65
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	15
Inquiries		1	0	1	33
Refunds	D	3	4	7	158
Rulings	A	4	0	4	104
Voided Claims	Y	0	0	0	24

Ron Church, Steward

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

BOS:RC:ap