

**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 John Carvelli, 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, August 28 through Sunday, September 1, 2024.**

**WEDNESDAY**8/28/24<sup>1</sup>**ENTRIES**

Steward Tom Ward will be handling entries this week and will also be writing minutes. Entries for the Saturday card went rather well today as a nine-race program, with good numbers, was finalized earlier than usual.

**THURSDAY**8/29/24<sup>1</sup>**ENTRIES AND SCRATCHES**

The Sunday entry process was a bit laborious; however, ten races were ultimately drawn by the Racing Office staff. Saturday scratches and changes resulted in two rider changes and one blinker addition.

8/29/24<sup>2</sup>**ENTRY PANEL**

The entry panel met this morning, with no major concerns resulting from the discussion.

8/29/24<sup>3</sup>**HEARINGS**

There were two hearings on the calendar today. The first, a financial complaint filed by trainer Angela Aquino against owner Larry Odbert, was tabled as Ms. Aquino received a check from Mr. Odbert, and she is waiting for the document to clear her bank.

The second hearing involved jockey John Valenzuela Jr., who tested positive for methamphetamine on July 26, 2024. Mr. Valenzuela appeared, without counsel, with his partner and their infant son. The rider admitted to having a "slip up" and said he did use a while before the test. Following the positive results, he was not allowed to name on horses or be on horseback until he tested negative for all prohibited drugs. He returned two weeks later, tested negative, and was allowed to name on horses. He also tested clean today.

As a sidebar to this story, he was also cited by stable security for living in the stable area with a child. No one from security appeared to address the violation, which took a back seat to the drug positive.

**FRIDAY**  
8/30/24<sup>1</sup>

**ENTRY PANEL**

The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, with two horses making the “Hard Watch” list for physical concerns. Several horses taking drops in company will be “under the microscope” by the veterinary staff.

8/30/24<sup>2</sup>

**SCRATCHES**

Scratch time for the Sunday card resulted in one scratch, three rider changes and a Lasix addition.

**SATURDAY**  
8/31/24<sup>1</sup>

**RULING #127**

**Ruling #127**

Jockey Jose M. Nicasio, who rode Jeriko in the ninth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on August 25, 2024, is suspended for three (3) racing days (September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024) for failure to make the proper effort to maintain a straight course, causing interference which resulted in the disqualification of his mount from first to seventh. This constitutes a violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1699 (Riding Rules- Carless Riding).

This ruling was issued as the result of Mr. Nicasio and his mount being disqualified from first to last place in the Go Man Go Handicap last Sunday evening. Mr. Nicasio, who was accompanied by his wife, tried to place blame on the #4 horse, the horse he shut off, for leaning in to tip his mount to the outside. There was a moment just after the start when the #4 horse did come in to make insignificant contact with Mr. Nicasio’s mount. There was no pressure from either the #2 horse or the #5 horse during the race. Plainly evident was the fact that Mr. Nicasio did not make an effort to straighten his mount. He was more concerned about winning than his fellow rider’s safety.

8/31/24<sup>2</sup>

**RULING #128**

**Ruling #128**

Jockey John Valenzuela, Jr. is suspended for Thirty (30) days (September 2, 2024, through October 1, 2024) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1489 (a) (8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License), and #1900 (Grounds for suspension or revocation).

This ruling was published after the Stewards debated the penalty to be imposed for his positive test for methamphetamine. The normal penalty for this type of violation is thirty days and we could find no mitigating reason for a lesser penalty.

8/31/24<sup>3</sup>

**JOCKEY EXCUSED**

Jockey John Valenzuela, Jr. was removed from his mount in the third race this evening as he did not honor the agreement he made with this Board of Stewards to pay a long-due HISA fine of \$250.00 for a crop violation. Mr. Valenzuela came up with a number of excuses, none of which held water. He is in the same situation for tomorrow evening, as he is named to ride five horses.

8/31/24<sup>4</sup>

**WRONG WEIGHT CARRIED – THIRD RACE**

Just prior to the third race being made Official, Steward Jim Dreyer noticed that the weight carried by the third-place finisher, #1 Naughty Niko, appeared to be wrong. The program read 119 lbs., including a seven-pound apprentice allowance. The race was programmed at 1000 yards, was therefore considered a Quarter Horse race even though Quarter Horses rarely enter them, and riders are not entitled to the apprentice allowance.

After a short discussion, due to the timing of the error being discovered, the Stewards determined that the prudent course of action would be to make the race Official and deal with any other related matters after gathering more information.

8/31/24<sup>5</sup>

**STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION**

The inquiry sign was posted following the sixth race to review an incident near the finish involving the winner, #9 Foursix Dustyred (P. Allegria), and the third-place finisher, #4 Jess Fly Thru Fire (J. Ayala).

After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the incident the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Foursix Dustyred from first to third position. The video showed the horse drifting in from the nine path to the four path and caused jockey Ayala to check his mount when things got tight. The margin between second and third was a "head" and the Stewards felt that Ayala and his mount were cost a position by the actions of the winner.

8/31/24<sup>6</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Race #1 Time To Bolt (Tr. Kitchingman) Sick - Dr. Beck – Refund: \$256.68  
 #2 Harlan Trooper (Tr. Hernandez, Jr.) Injured – Dr. Beck – Refund \$147.14  
 5<sup>th</sup> Race #4 Pancake Man (Tr. Glenn, Jr.) Injured – Dr. Beck – Refund \$340.05  
 7<sup>th</sup> Race #4 Imeasilytempted (Tr. Gomez) Unsound – Dr. Beck – Refund \$244.95

8/31/24<sup>7</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	866	\$100,613.30
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	999	\$300,601.80
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$925,371.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,865	\$1,326,586.81

**SUNDAY**

9/1/24<sup>1</sup>

**RULING #129**

**Ruling #129**

Jockey Panfilo V. Alegria, who rode Foursix Dustyred in the sixth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on August 31, 2024, is suspended for three (3) racing days (September 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024) for failure to make the proper effort to maintain a straight course, causing interference which resulted in the disqualification of his mount from first to third. This constitutes a violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1699 (Riding Rules- Careless Riding).

The foregoing ruling was issued after Mr. Alegria viewed the sixth race from last evening, following which his mount was disqualified for interference nearing the finish. Mr. Alegria was accompanied by Mr. Jesus Mendoza, the Owner and Trainer of the horse. Mr. Alegria really had no excuse for his mistake, stating that he was just trying to win.

9/1/24<sup>2</sup>

**RULING #130**

**Ruling #130**

Jockey Adrian Escobedo 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 Lovely Colleen in the second race at Los Alamitos Race Course on August 31, 2024.

This ruling was issued after Mr. Escobedo opted not to defend his actions regarding a crop violation in the race going 2 ½ furlongs last evening.

9/1/24<sup>3</sup>

**WRONG WEIGHT CARRIED - CONTINUED**

Owner / Trainer Arturo Williams was in the office with his wife to discuss the circumstances resulting in his horse, #1 Naughty Niko, carrying the incorrect weight in last night's third race (refer to 8/31/24<sup>4</sup>).

Mr. Williams stated that he entered the horse with Racing Secretary Nate Estrada and did not claim the apprentice allowance as he knew he was not entitled to it under the conditions of the race; i.e., Quarter Horse. A check of the original entry blank filled out by Mr. Estrada confirmed Mr. Williams' statement. In fact, there was no weight filled in.

Racing Secretary Nate Estrada was questioned and confirmed Mr. Williams' statements. Apparently, when an entry is inputted into the Incompass system, the computer reacts to the jockey's name and automatically factors in the apprentice allowance. Mr. Estrada said that his staff routinely has to change weights when apprentices ride in 1000 yard races. Unfortunately, this mistake was not caught until Mr. Dreyer noticed it. Decision forthcoming.

9/1/24<sup>4</sup>

**STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION**

The Stewards reviewed an incident which took place during the running of the seventh race involving the fifth-place finisher, #6 RGR Western Justice (J. Valenzuela, Jr.). The inquiry sign was not posted as parimutuel payoffs were not involved. An announcement as to the inquiry was made. Following a review of the incident the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify RGR Western Justice from fifth to eighth position. Video showed the horse veering out sharply in the early going, interfering with both the sixth and eighth place horses. The rider was not held responsible.

9/1/24<sup>5</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Race #6 C'Mon Lets Switch (Tr. Lucas) – Injured – Dr. Beck – Refund: \$125.04  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Race #2 Donita Rose (Tr. Aquino) – Injured – Dr. Beck – Refund: \$469.26  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Race \$6 Paul Vincents Poem (Tr. Lucas) – Sick – Dr. Beck – Refund: \$271.14

9/1/24<sup>6</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	787	\$107,764.20
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	845	\$256,093.90
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$1,174,183.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,632	\$1,538,041.99

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri 8/30</b>	<b>Sat 8/31</b>	<b>Sun 9/1</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	D	0	0	0	2
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A	0	0	0	15
<b>Claims</b>	R	0	3	3	88
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K	1	1	2	19
<b>Inquiries</b>	D	1	1	2	38
<b>Refunds</b>	A	3	3	6	212
<b>Rulings</b>	Y	2	2	4	130
<b>Voided Claims</b>		0	0	0	33

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Tom Ward, Steward

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James Dreyer, Steward

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Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj