

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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Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, October 30 through Sunday, November 3, 2024.

WEDNESDAY10/30/24¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be in the office this Breeders Cup week for entries, scratches, panel and whatever else may arise. Ward will also be putting pen to paper – minutes – for the next five days. Best of luck to our colleagues at Del Mar.

10/30/24²**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

The Entry process for Saturday resulted in a ten-race card filling by mid-afternoon. Short fields are the norm.

THURSDAY10/31/24¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

Entries are being taken for the Sunday card this morning. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning via the Alexander Graham Bell invention, with no major concerns arising. Scratches were nil and there were few changes.

10/31/24²**HEARING DAY**

There were three hearings scheduled, and heard, this morning – two for trainer Jose Flores and one for trainer Brian Koriner. The first Flores complaint involved his failure to have a pre-work soundness exam conducted on the horse “Lord Earl”. Mr. Flores stated that he was unaware of the rule, #1846.2, requiring examination. The explanation was somewhat hard to fathom, given the number of horses Mr. Flores has in his barn.

The second complaint was for the post-race finding of Phenylbutazone in his horse “Steel Blue Cartel”, the winner of the eighth race on August 10, 2024. Mr. Flores acknowledged that the horse trained on the medication, but that he “backed off” for 48 hours prior to race day. He said

he was following information relayed to him by a previous Equine Medical Director. However, at the time the information was passed along, there was still an allowable limit on the drug. Not so these days. Rulings for the two violations will be published on Saturday.

Trainer Brian Koriner was contacted by telephone regarding the complaint filed against him for failure to have a follow-up examination done on his horse "Someone Like You", as required by rule #1846.2(b). Mr. Koriner said that the follow-up exam totally slipped his mind and accepted the standard penalty of \$500.00. The ruling will be signed on the weekend. Ward dissented on this case as he felt that a warning for the violation was in order.

10/31/24³

FAILURE TO APPEAR FINALIZED

Owner/Groom Ericson Parada came to the office this morning to resolve a case filed against him by Los Alamitos security for allegedly stealing a potted flower plant. He had originally been cited to appear in August, but did not attend the hearing.

Mr. Parada admitted taking the plant but said that in his conversation with the plant's owner, he thought she was giving him permission to take it. When security got involved, he realized his mistake and returned the plant to the original owner. We will restore him to good standing this weekend.

FRIDAY

11/01/24¹

SUNDAY SCRATCHED AND PANEL

A ten-race program will be offered this Sunday, as entries were finalized by mid-afternoon. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, with three horses making the "Hard Watch" list for enhanced scrutiny by the veterinarian team. There were no scratches and changes were few.

SATURDAY

11/02/24¹

RULING #159

Ruling #159

Jockey CESAR FRANCO is fined SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$750.00)* AND SUSPENDED FOR FOUR RACING DAYS (November 10, 16, 17 and 23, 2024) for a blatant violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (8) (Use of Riding Crop – twelve times during the running of the race) while riding Show N Tell Cartel in the ninth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on October 27, 2024.

The foregoing ruling was issued after Mr. Franco had viewed the ninth race from October 27, during which he violated the crop rule in a blatant fashion once again. He had just received a sanction for the same violation in a race last Saturday, then did the same thing the next night. He was apologetic, stating that he had just started back riding and was trying too hard. He will now have a total of SIX RACING DAYS to think about his mistakes – plus twelve hundred fifty dollars in fines. Steward Church dissented as he felt a five day suspension was warranted.

11/02/24²

RULING #160

Ruling #160

HAVING VIOLATED THE HORSERACING INTEGRITY AND SAFETY AUTHORITY RULE #2280 (USE OF RIDING CROP) AND PURSUANT TO HORSERACING INTEGRITY AND SAFETY AUTHORITY RULE #2282 (RIDING CROP VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES – CLASS 2-SECOND OFFENSE), JOCKEY BARRINGTON HARVEY, WHO RODE SAN JAC IN THE FIRST RACE (PURSE \$9,000.00) AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 27, 2024, IS SUSPENDED FOR (6) DAYS (NOVEMBER 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 AND 24, 2024), AND FINED SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$600.00)* FOR FIVE (5) STRIKES OVER THE LIMIT.

Mr. Harvey was in the office this afternoon to review the first race from October 27, during which he violated the HISA crop rule – five strikes over the limit of six – his second like violation in sixty days. He used the very poor excuse that he was not aware that strikes on the shoulder were considered just the same as strikes on the hind quarters.

11/02/24³

RULING #161

Ruling #161

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

The foregoing ruling was issued after the Stewards discussed Mr. Flores' case, which was heard this past Thursday.

11/02/24⁴

RULING #162

Ruling #162

Trainer Jose Flores, who started the horse Steel Blue Cartel, the first place finisher in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on August 10, 2024, is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* and assessed ½ point in accordance with California Horse Racing Board Rule #1843.4 (Multiple medication violations – expires August 9, 2025) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board Rules #1887 (a) (Trainer or Owner to insure condition of horse), for violation of California Horse Racing Board rules #1843 (a, b & d) (Medication, drugs and other substances) and #1843.1 (a) (Prohibited drug substances – Phenylbutazone – first Class C violation within the past 365 days).

This ruling finalized the complaint against Mr. Flores for a Phenylbutazone finding.

11/02/24⁵

RULING #163

Ruling #163

Trainer Brian Koriner is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1846.2(b) (Training Soundness Examination).

11/02/24⁶

RULING #164

Ruling #164

Owner Ericson Parada, having appeared, is restored to good standing and eligible to apply for a license from the California Horse Racing Board. Ruling #126, issued at Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Association on August 24, 2024, is set aside.

11/02/24⁷

TRAINER RE-INSTATED

The ongoing saga of trainer Heath Taylor appears to have come to a close at this juncture. We received a call that he was saddling a horse for the ninth race this evening, which would have been a violation of his New Mexico summary suspension. He was summoned to the phone and indicated that he had been re-instated by the New Mexico Stewards last Sunday, October 27th. That was all well and good, but the Stewards at this venue were never formally notified. Mr. Taylor immediately texted us a copy of the re-instatement ruling. Matter closed.

11/02/24⁸

ACCIDENT AT START/INQUIRY/NO CHANGE

The inquiry sign was posted after the seventh race as jockey Jonathan Roman was unseated from his mount, #2 Eagles Interest, in the opening stride. After speaking with Starter Gary Brinson and reviewing video of the start, the Stewards unanimously voted to declare the horse a "starter". The video showed the horse making a ninety-degree left-hand turn when the stall doors opened, unseating the rider and nearly taking out our Starter. Mr. Brinson proved that he still has quick reactions when the need arises. Fortunately, neither horse, nor rider, nor Starter were injured.

11/02/24⁹

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #6 My Best Gift (Tr. F. Gonzalez) – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$132.30
4th Race #5 Charlottes Delight (Tr. R. Lucas) – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$100.70
7th Race #1 Rf Brandy (Tr. A. Farias) – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$573.70

11/02/24¹⁰

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	694	\$101,428.80
SCOTWINC	1,285	\$352,671.50
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$958,711.80
TOTAL	1,979	\$1,412,812.10

SUNDAY

11/03/24¹

TRACK LIGHTS

The Stewards became aware of an issue with the track lights as the field was parading for the first race. They weren't on! Director of Racing Nate Estrada was contacted, he made a call to the track electrician, and within a few minutes the lights miraculously came on. Just what the problem was is not known at this point, but it would not be out of the of possibility that the problem was caused by a switch – not turned on. It is also possible that the lights were set to daylight savings time. All other matters during the ten-race program were routine.

11/03/24²

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #6 Nazare (Tr. A. Farias) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$529.25

11/03/24³

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	497	\$84,565.10
SCOTWINC	841	\$240,412.60
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$924,463.98
TOTAL	1,338	\$1,249,441.68

SUMMARY

	Fri 11/1	Sat 11/2	Sun 11/3	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	1	0	1	5
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	15
Claims	R	3	1	4	112
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	24
Inquiries	D	1	0	1	50
Refunds	A	3	1	4	264
Rulings	Y	6	0	6	164
Voided Claims		0	0	0	41

Tom Ward, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

Ron Church, Steward