

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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Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the week of May 7, 2025, through May 11, 2025.

WEDNESDAY05/07/25¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will have the dawn shift this week. Hopefully, entries will fill as well as they have in recent weeks. Ward will also be putting pen to paper for the next five days. Entries are being accepted for the Saturday card.

05/07/25²**FATALITY REVIEWS**

Stewards Ward and Atkinson participated in two fatality reviews this morning. Also involved were Veterinarians Jocelyn Lorbiecki and Equine Medical Director Jeffrey Blea. Phil D'Amato, who unfortunately lost two horses to severe injuries several months ago, was the trainer involved. There have been times when trainers either cannot recall the details or are reluctant to be forthcoming, but in this case Mr. D'Amato was neither. He was completely open and had an almost photographic memory of what took place prior to, during and following the incidents. He is to be commended for his participation.

05/07/25³**A HELPING HAND WITH HISA**

The subject of jockey Henry Reynoso Lopez and his penalty under HISA crop rules surfaced this morning. According to the information received, it was thought that Mr. Lopez wanted to appeal his fine (\$250.00) and one day suspension (April 26, 2025) for too many strikes (7) during a two- and one-half furlong race run under the HISA rules. The rider was contacted and said that all he wanted to do was pay the fine and be done with the matter. HISA representatives were contacted and informed of Mr. Lopez' wishes. He will come to the Stewards office tomorrow and hopefully close the case.

THURSDAY05/08/25¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY PANEL/HEARING DAY**

The Saturday card filled rather well, as ten races were drawn by mid-afternoon. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning with one horse making the "hard watch" list. Sunday entries are

open this morning. Scratches and changes were limited to three weight corrections, two rider changes, and two blinker additions.

05/08/25²

CASTANEDA DISQUALIFICATION AND MEDICATION HEARING

Trainer Kelly Castaneda was in our office this morning in response to a complaint filed against him for the results of a test obtained from his horse Splashed In Gold, the third-place finisher in the first race at Los Alamitos on March 15, 2025. The post-race findings showed the presence of 2.5 nanograms/ml of the decongestant Dextromethorphan, which is a Class 4, Penalty Class B drug. The fact that the penalty for the violation is in the B Class requires disqualification, in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1843.3.

With respect to the penalty phase for Mr. Castaneda, he said that the owner, Guillermina Mena, asked him if she could move the horse from his barn into a stall next to where her husband's pony horse was stabled. Mr. Castaneda said he had no objection. That is where the problem started. The horse was entered to race and subsequently came up with a cough. Instead of informing the trainer so the horse could be scratched, Manuel Mena gave the horse a dose of NyQuil cough syrup, which contained the prohibited product. Mr. Mena never told Mr. Castaneda what he done until the test results came out.

The Stewards will issue a ruling disqualifying Splashed In Gold and will discuss the penalty for the trainer and perhaps anyone else associated with the horse.

FRIDAY

05/09/25¹

SUNDAY SCRATCHES/CHANGES AND PANEL

Entries for Sunday went well, as nine races are offered, the feature being the \$275,000 added Robert Adair Kindergarten Futurity. The panel discussed horses in on Sunday, with one horse being scratched for injury, three horses on the "hard watch" list, and another in limbo regarding a discrepancy in vet records. Other than that, all was clear.

SATURDAY

05/10/25¹

RULING #61 & #62

Ruling #61

Acting on a report from the University of California Davis, an official testing laboratory for the California Horse Racing Board, that blood sample #PR01515, taken from the horse SPLASHED IN GOLD, the third place finisher in the first race at Los Alamitos Race Course on March 15, 2025, tested positive for Dextromethorphan (Class IV), it is ordered that SPLASHED IN GOLD be disqualified from all purse monies earned in said race, in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1859.5 (Disqualification Upon Positive Test Finding).

It is further ordered that all purse monies (\$1,330.00) earned by Owner Guillermina G. Mena, Trainer Kelly Castaneda, and Jockey Hugo Herrera be returned to the Paymaster of Purses at Los Alamitos Race Course by June 9, 2025, for redistribution pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to be Withheld).

This ruling was issued following a hearing into the positive for Dextromethorphan found in Splashed In Gold, owned by Guillermina Mena and trained by Kelly Castaneda. (Ref. 5-8-25-2)

Ruling #62

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1887 (Owner or Trainer to Insure Condition of Horse), Trainer Kelly Castaneda, who started the horse SPLASHED IN GOLD, the third place finisher in the first race at Los Alamitos Race Course on March 15, 2025, is suspended for THIRTY DAYS (30) (May 19 through June 17, 2025) and ½ point in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1843.4 (Multiple Medication Violations – expires August 30, 2025), for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rules #1843 (a) and (d) (Medication, Drugs and Other Substances) and #1843.1 (a) (Prohibited Medication – Dextromethorphan)

The foregoing ruling was issued to close the case against Mr. Castaneda. The rule regarding penalties mandates that without mitigating circumstances, a minimum thirty-day suspension is in order. Without a doubt, there are no mitigating circumstances in this case. Mr. Castaneda turned over a horse in his care to Manuel Mena, the husband of the horse's owner. This was a complete abdication of his responsibility as a trainer. As an aside in this case, it is difficult to grasp why Mr. Mena, who gave the medication to the horse, has not been the subject of a complaint.

05/10/25²

RULING #63

Ruling #63

Trainer Satchell Stevens, having failed to comply with the provisions of the Los Alamitos Board of Stewards agreement (Financial Responsibility - \$314.51 owed to Chett Marketing), is suspended. Suspension will commence on May 12, 2025.

Mr. Stevens failed to follow through with the agreement he had with this office for a delinquent tack store bill. The time for excuses ran out.

05/10/25³

VIDEO REVIEW

Cruz Mendez was in the office this afternoon to look at the tenth race from last Sunday for a possible crop violation. At first glance it appeared that he struck his mount seven times. He maintained that the first strike was a "flag". After reviewing the race from all angles, the Stewards agreed to give the rider the benefit of the doubt and issued a warning. In Mr. Mendez's defense, it must be said that he very rarely commits a violation.

05/10/25⁴

GOOD EVENING

All matters taking place during the course of the evening were routine.

05/10/25⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

3rd Race #7 Careful Colin (Tr. M. Stortz) Injured – Dr Fitzgerald – Refund: \$107.80
 4th Race #2 Queen High Strait (Tr. C. Treece) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$341.15
 10th Race #6 Bottle It Up (Tr. R. Castillo) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$166.00
 #7 Jess Flaming (Tr. S. Morfin) Stakes – Stewards – Refund: \$110.70

05/10/25⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	757	\$100,373.40
SCOTWINC	1,124	\$287,745.20
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,182,604.43
TOTAL	1,881	\$1,570,723.03

SUNDAY
05/11/25¹

STEWARD OFF

Steward James Dreyer will be out of the stand this evening. Safety Steward Paul Atkinson will replace Mr. Dreyer.

05/11/25²

GATE INCIDENT-REFUND

A refund was ordered in the first race as #7 Delightful Reserve attempted to flip during the loading procedure, ending up with its front legs over the bar between stalls. Dr. Fitzgerald recommended the horse be scratched, with the refund amounting to \$13,076.36. The rider was not injured.

05/11/25³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1st Race #1 Delightful Reserve (Tr. J. Ramos) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$13,076.36
 3rd Race #6 Smarty Nose (Tr. S. Rivera) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$238.09
 6th Race #6 Kiss My Jackpot (Tr. E. Willis) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$548.48
 9th Race #7 Candy Eyed Suze (Tr. E. Willis) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$697.62

05/11/25⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	702	\$87,582.60
SCOTWINC	889	\$206,556.40
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,358,877.85
TOTAL	1,591	\$1,653,016.85

SUMMARY

	Fri 05/09	Sat 05/10	Sun 05/11	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	4
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	1	0	1	36
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	8
Inquiries	-	0	0	0	11
Refunds	D	4	4	8	136
Rulings	A	3	0	3	63
Voided Claims	Y	0	0	0	11

Tom Ward, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

BOS:TW:dj