

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
Honorable Peter Stern, Member
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, July 23, through Sunday, July 27, 2025.

WEDNESDAY07/23/25¹**DUTY STEWARD-SATURDAY ENTRIES**

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries, overnight changes and panel discussions. Ward will also be writing minutes for the period. Entries are being accepted for the Saturday card.

THURSDAY07/24/25¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES-SATURDAY CHANGES-PANEL**

Entries for Sunday will be taken this morning, with the hope that the card fills as well as it did for Saturday. The Saturday offering features several California Bred Stakes races, highlighted by the Grade III Governor's Cup Futurity. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, resulting in one horse being scratched due to an interarticular steroid injection within thirty days.

07/24/25²**HEARING DAY**

Groom Manuel Cervantes was in our office this morning in response to a complaint filed against him for the use of methamphetamine. He was tested during an investigation for an equine positive and he tested positive. At first, he indicated that he had never used but changed his story after a discussion with the investigators. Mr. Cervantes told them that he started the drug some two months ago, after re-locating from Northern California. He subsequently put himself into an in-house rehabilitation center for 45 days with the help of Winners Foundation. He was tested this morning and the results proved negative. We will formulate a decision this weekend.

07/24/25³**WARNING ISSUED**

Trainer Wendell McDaniel was contacted this morning in regard to a complaint filed for failure to have a pre-work examination done on one of his horses. He explained that he had to cancel a work due to track conditions and was told that he was "good to go" when the weather cleared. He also said that he received a bill from his vet for an examination, so he thinks she did the exam but forgot to report it to Equitaps. He will receive an Official Warning.

FRIDAY
07/25/25¹

SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL

Three jockey substitutions were the extent of Sunday scratches/changes. The Panel met this morning, with no significant outcomes. On another matter, one horse was scratched as it was on the Stewards' List from New Mexico due to an unapproved owner transfer. Assistant Racing Secretary Nate Estrada was the one who noticed the problem and alerted the Steward on duty. The New Mexico Stewards were contacted and verified the information Mr. Estrada had forwarded.

SATURDAY
07/26/25¹

RULINGS #104 & #105

Ruling #104

Jockey Damian Diaz Cruz is fined THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (1) (Use of Riding Crop – during training when not necessary for safety of horse or rider).

Ruling #105

Jockey Leonel Camacho-Flores is fined THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (1) (Use of Riding Crop – during training when not necessary for safety of horse or rider).

These rulings were issued in response to reports from Safety Steward Paul Atkinson which stated that the riders used the riding crop on horses when there was no legitimate reason.

07/26/25²

OFFICIAL WARNING (Ref 7-24-2025-3)

Ruling #106

Trainer Wendell McDaniel is issued an OFFICIAL WARNING for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1878 (b)(1) (Workouts – Failure to Submit Documentation that his horse Big Difference had been examined prior to a workout on April 2, 2025).

07/26/25³

GROOM MANUEL CERVANTES

Ruling #107

Stable Foreman Manuel Cervantes is hereby suspended THIRTY (30) DAYS and placed on probation for the term of his license (exp. 8/31/2026) for violation of CHRB rules #1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial of Refusal of License – engaged in the use of methamphetamine and amphetamine) and CHRB rule #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation). For cause the thirty-day suspension is stayed and Mr. Cervantes is given credit for time served.

The foregoing ruling was issued after the Stewards discussed Mr. Cervantes' case. We felt that the time he spent away from the track (45 days), while seeking in-house help for his problem, was enough to grant him for credit for time served. Every other facet of the ruling was standard for a first-time drug violation of this sort.

07/26/25⁴

REFUND

The Stewards ordered a refund in the second race (350 yards) as #1 Shinning Favorite became fractious and "flipped" during the loading procedure. Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald recommended the late scratch, with the resulting refund amounting to \$8,900.49. The rider, Irving Lara, was not injured.

07/26/25⁵

ANOTHER REFUND

There was another late refund, this time in the third event, as #7 Cartel Ravin turned upside down shortly after being loaded, eventually crawling out from under the gate and running into the stable area. The refund came to a total of \$33,004.33

07/26/25⁶

RIDER EXCUSED

Eduardo Nicasio was excused from his mount in the fifth race as Clerk of Scales Nate Estrada reported that he was cramping badly from reducing and could not do justice to his mount. A replacement rider was named.

07/26/25⁷

JOCKEY OBJECTION – NO CHANGE

The objection sign was posted after the seventh race as Armando Viramontes (6th, #3 Malynche) lodged a claim of foul against Francisco J. Ramirez (5th, #2 Be Careful) for interference in the stages of the race. After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the race, the Stewards unanimously voted to dismiss the objection. While #3 Malynche was impacted to some degree by her competitor, it was not to the point that she lost a position.

07/26/25⁸

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race #3 Flings Favorite (Tr. S. Morfin) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$349.00
- #4 Chicka Boom Babe (Tr. A. Valles) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$352.13
- #7 Deep Blue (Tr. J. Stinebaugh) Interarticular injection within 30 days – Stewards Refund: \$352.19. No Show Wagering.
- 2nd Race #1 Shinning Favorite (Tr. S. Morfin) Late Scratch (Gate) Stewards Refund:\$8,900.49
- 3rd Race #7 Cartel Raven (Tr. J. Nunez) Late Scratch (Gate) Stewards Refund: \$33,004.33
- 4th Race No Changes
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race #3 London Toby (Tr. S. Willoughby) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$1,293.04
- 9th Race No Changes

07/26/25⁹

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	993	\$118,214.20
SCOTWINC	1,253	\$261,710.10
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,009,067.63
TOTAL	2,246	\$1,388,991.93

SUNDAY

07/27/25¹

RULINGS #108 & #109

Ruling #108

Jockey Ricardo S. Ramirez 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 Sneaky Kid in the fifth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 26, 2025.

The above ruling was written as the rider was in violation of the “crop” rule. It was his second offense within 60 days.

Ruling #109

Jockey Francisco J. Ramirez, who rode Be Careful in the seventh race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 26, 2025, is suspended for (3) THREE RACING DAYS (August 10, 16 and 17, 2025) for failure to make the proper effort to maintain a straight course and causing interference. This constitutes a violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1699 (Riding Rules – Careless Riding).

The foregoing ruling was issued as Mr. Ramirez failed to react in a timely manner to prevent interference.

07/27/25²

QUIET EVENING

The nine-race program was completed without the need for Stewards’ involvement.

07/27/25³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race #7 Square Tomatoes (Tr. B. Cunningham) Unsound - Dr. Fitzgerald Refund: \$905.01
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race #4 Dancing Bonbon (Tr. C. Hurtado) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$984.78
- 4th Race No Changes
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes
- 9th Race #5 Coronas Strawfinder (Tr. S. Morfin) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$805.44

07/27/25⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	675	\$64,632.30
SCOTWINC	956	\$185,187.80
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,033,602.00
TOTAL	1,631	\$1,283,422.10

SUMMARY

	Fri 7/25	Sat 7/26	Sun 7/27	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	4
Cal-Bred Races	A	6	0	6	12
Claims	R	0	1	1	59
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	15
Inquiries	D	1	0	1	18
Refunds	A	2	3	5	197
Rulings	Y	4	2	6	109
Voided Claims		0	0	0	16

Tom Ward, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

John Herbuveaux, Steward

BOS:TW:dj