

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 263-6000  
[www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov)



**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, August 20, through Sunday, August 24, 2025.**

**WEDNESDAY**08/20/25<sup>1</sup>**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries, scratches and changes. Ward will also be writing minutes.

08/20/25<sup>2</sup>**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

Entries for the Saturday card are being accepted this morning. The last report indicated that things were going rather slowly, with only one race filling before noon.

**THURSDAY**08/21/25<sup>1</sup>**SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

Racing Secretary George Yniguez and his staff ultimately put a nine-race program together for Saturday, with the draw being finalized around 5:00 P.M. There are two Thoroughbred races, one 870-yard event (not many of these races fill) and six Quarter Horses contests for the fans to handicap.

Sunday entries are in the hopper this morning, with the hope of an early draw.

The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, with Dr. Kelsey Sapp being deputized by Dr. Fitzgerald to chair the meeting. There was one "hard watch" horse on the Saturday card.

There were no scratches and only two rider changes for the program.

08/21/25<sup>2</sup>**HEARING DAY**

A hearing scheduled for Groom Ruben Ortiz failed to go forward as he did not appear for the hearing. A ruling suspending him will be issued this coming Saturday.

Mr. Joseph Thomas, who was suspended for failure to appear a short time ago, was in our office to settle the financial complaint which prompted his suspension. He met with the representatives of Equine Sports Medicine, and they settled on a final amount of \$797.00, which was a reduction of \$85.00 from the original figure.

We will issue a ruling restoring Mr. Thomas to good standing.

**FRIDAY**  
08/22/25<sup>1</sup>

**SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

The Sunday racing program will consist of one mixed breed race, seven trial races for the Governor's Cup Futurity and the Grade 1 Go Man Go. The latter event will feature the return of World Champion Empressum.

The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, with no significant problems to report. Scratch time came and went with nothing other than rider changes and one equipment change.

**SATURDAY**  
08/23/25<sup>1</sup>

**RULINGS #117 - #119**

Ruling #117

Having appeared before the Board of Stewards at Los Alamitos Race Course and having satisfied the financial obligation to Equine Sports Medicine, ruling LAQL #98 suspending Mr. Joseph Thomas for failure to appear is hereby set aside and license privileges of Mr. Thomas are restored to good standing.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Thomas appeared and satisfied his past due account.

Ruling #118

Groom Ruben Ortiz, having failed to respond to written notice to appear before the Board of Stewards at Los Alamitos Race Course on or before August 21, 2025, is hereby suspended for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1547 (Failure to Appear) pending an appearance at a hearing before the Board of Stewards to answer charges alleging violation of CHRB rules #1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License) #1890 (a) ( Possession of Contraband) and #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation).

The above ruling was issued as Mr. Ortiz failed to appear for his hearing.

Ruling #119

Jockey Adrian Escobedo who rode Lessons Of Autism in the fourth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on Sunday, August 17, 2025, is suspended SEVEN (7) RACING DAYS (September 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 and 27, 2025) for crossing over without sufficient clearance and causing interference resulting in the disqualification of his mount from first to unplaced. A violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1699 (c & e)(Riding Rules-Careless Riding).

This ruling was finalized after Mr. Escobedo met with the Stewards to discuss his ride in the fourth race last Sunday which resulted in an accident and the disqualification of his mount. (Re. 8-17-2025-1). The rider did not offer much of an excuse, stating that when he looked to his left, he did not see the other horse and thought he was clear. The first he knew of a problem was when the rider on his inside yelled at him.

Ward dissented, as he felt that seven days at this venue, which equates to three and ½ weeks, was excessive.

08/23/25<sup>2</sup>

**CONTINUANCE REQUESTED**

Jose Nicasio, along with his wife, was in the office this afternoon requesting a continuance of his hearing, which is scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Nicasio, who acts as an interpreter for her husband, explained that the attorney they originally retained to represent him did not work out and they needed time to find satisfactory counsel.

The Stewards took the position that all parties to a hearing are entitled to one continuation. Consequently, the continuance was granted, with the hearing now set for Thursday, October 9, 2025.

08/23/25<sup>3</sup>

**STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION**

The inquiry sign was posted following the fifth race as the Stewards reviewed an incident shortly after the start of the 110-yard dash. Horses involved were the fourth, fifth and sixth place

finishers - #4 Kandee Man (A. Viramontes), #5 Sadie Says Fly (E. Nicasio) and #6 Fly Thru The Top (C. Franco).

After reviewing video of the race, the Stewards voted unanimously to disqualify Kandee Man from fourth to sixth position. Video showed that Kandee Man came out just after the start, making contact with Sadie Says Fly and forcing that horse out to shut off Fly Thru The Top. We felt that the incident altered the finish position of both horses.

08/23/25<sup>4</sup>

**STEWARD REVIEWS**

Two Steward Reviews were conducted during the racing program, both dealing with the start. Since both incidents were attributed to antics of the horses involved, there was no need for further scrutiny on the part of the Stewards.

08/23/25<sup>5</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race #1 Cheeky Gal (Tr. A. Flores) Injured – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$885.90
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Race No Changes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Race #1 Smiling Jojo (Tr. R. Quinonez) Injured – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$194.60  
#4 Nightbirde It's Ok (Tr. A. Williams) Injured – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$169.60
- 4<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes
- 5<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Ab Corona de Rey (Tr. J. Gomez) Sick – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$716.38
- 6<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Ming Dynasty (Tr. M. Casselman) Injured – Dr. Moser – Refund \$548.30
- 7<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes
- 8<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes
- 9<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes

08/23/25<sup>6</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	811	\$89,267.00
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	1,197	\$268,151.90
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$954,436.27
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,008	\$1,311,855.17

**SUNDAY**

08/24/25<sup>1</sup>

**ACCIDENT**

Jockey Cesar Franco was unseated from his mount, #5 Eye Need Another, following the fourth race as the horse stumbled sharply in the first turn while pulling up. Mr. Franco was examined by paramedics and found to be uninjured. He completed his remaining engagement. The loose horse was captured by Outrider Keith Craigmyle and returned to trainer Mike Casselman none the worse for wear.

08/24/25<sup>2</sup>

**REFUNDS**

Two refunds were ordered in the sixth race this evening as #2 Favorite Jester and #3 Bear Down became very fractious during the loading procedure and injured themselves. Racing Veterinarian Moser recommended that the horses be declared. The scratch of Favorite Jester resulted in a return of \$6,072.80, while Bear Down caused a \$5,741.99 refund. Fortunately, neither jockey was injured.

08/24/25<sup>3</sup>

**GOOD NIGHT OF RACING**

The nine race card tonight was free of any major incidents, with the seven two-year-old trials being run without need for the Stewards' intervention. Empressum returned to the racing wars with a game second place finish in the Grade 1 Go Man Go Handicap.

08/24/25<sup>4</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race No Changes

2<sup>nd</sup> Race #3 Mayor Humdinger (Tr. M. Casselman) Trials – Stewards – Refund: \$1,090.92  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Race No Changes  
 4<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes  
 5<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes  
 6<sup>th</sup> Race #2 Favorite Jester (Tr. J. Nunez) Starting Gate – Stewards – Refund: \$6,072.80  
 #3 Bear Down (Tr. M. Casselman) Starting Gate – Stewards – Refund: \$5,741.99  
 7<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes  
 8<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes  
 9<sup>th</sup> Race No Changes

08/24/25<sup>5</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	729	\$91,967.70
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	944	\$234,058.10
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$1,298,841.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,673	\$1,624,866.92

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri 8/22</b>	<b>Sat 8/23</b>	<b>Sun 8/24</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	D	0	1	1	7
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A	0	0	0	12
<b>Claims</b>	R	1	0	1	74
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K	1	0	1	17
<b>Inquiries</b>	D	1	0	1	21
<b>Refunds</b>	A	5	3	8	227
<b>Rulings</b>	Y	3	0	3	119
<b>Voided Claims</b>		0	0	0	16

---

Tom Ward, Steward

---

John Herbuveaux, Steward

---

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj