

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, September 10, through Sunday, September 14, 2025.

WEDNESDAY09/10/25¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be in the office this week for entries and assorted duties. Ward will also be handling minutes.

09/10/25²**SATURDAY DRAW**

Entries were accepted for the Saturday card this morning. The process was rather slow, with an eight-race program being finalized after 4:00 PM.

THURSDAY09/11/25¹**SATURDAY SCRATCHES/SUNDAY ENTRIES**

Scratch time for Saturday came and went with nothing significant to report. The Sunday entry process is under way this morning, as management is opting for an eight-race program. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, with no recommended scratches and one hard watch horse.

09/11/25²**CHANGE IN STEWARDS**

Mr. John Herbubeaux completed his tour of duty at this venue on Sunday evening. Mr. David Nuesch, fresh from the Del Mar meeting, will be in the stand for the next two weeks.

09/11/25³**HEARING DAY**

Trainer Robert Lucas was in the office this morning in response to a complaint filed against him for violation of CHRB rule #1581.1 (Entries). Two of his horses were not examined at the mandated time to comply with the rule.

A laborious, repetitive hearing, over one hour in length, was held under format conditions. Court Reporter Michell Derieg recorded the testimony.

Mr. Lucas' horse, Mr. Mercedes, was a late scratch on April 26th, as it was determined that a pre-race examination by Dr. Cecelia Chapparo was not timely. A second horse, Jager Angel, was permitted to run by Official Veterinarian Beck as the examination was late but was within

the grace period. However, it was not entered into the Equitaps system in a timely manner by the attending veterinarian. Mr. Lucas admitted that his main concern was not that he could be penalized by the Stewards but that he could be 'fired' by the vet practice should his attending veterinarian be disciplined. There was one witness called by the Respondent. Humberto Hernandez, who was introduced by Mr. Lucas as his assistant, could not offer any pertinent information as his memory failed when asked about dates and times of the pre-race examinations.

Dr. Gary Beck, Official Veterinarian, testified regarding the basis for the complaint and said that while one horse had to be scratched, he did permit Jager Angel to run as the attending veterinarian was late in entering information into the Equitaps system. We will review testimony and exhibits and formulate a decision.

FRIDAY
09/12/25¹

SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL

There were no horses scratched following the Sunday panel meeting; also, no hard watch horses. Scratch time was no problem, as there was one rider change and one blinker addition.

SATURDAY
09/13/25¹

RULING #132

Ruling #132

Trainer Robert Lucas, who entered the horse Mr Mercedes in the first race at Los Alamitos Race Course on April 26, 2025, is fined THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1581.1 (b) (Entries – entry examination required), resulting in a late scratch.

This ruling was issued following a discussion by the Stewards of the facts unearthed during the Thursday hearing. Mr. Lucas did not accept any responsibility for the problems, putting the onus on the attending veterinarian. However, the ultimate responsibility rests with the trainer.

09/13/25²

FOURTH RACE FIASCO/REFUND/ACCIDENT INQUIRY

The fourth race this evening presented problems from pre-race to the actual event itself. The first issue took place as the field was loading into the starting gate. #1 Thinking Right, trained by Scott Willoughby, reared up while being led into its stall, lost the rider and ran off into the stable area. Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald recommended that the horse be scratched, with the refund amounting to \$7,223.95.

The major problem occurred shortly after the start. Horses involved were #8 Terrific Rocknroll (H. Lopez), and #3 One Day Queen (R. Ramirez). Approximately 40 yards after the start, Terrific Rocknroll "locked up" in the hind end, lost his action and fell, throwing Lopez to the track. When that horse regained its feet, #3 One Day Queen, who had broken slowly, reacted to the horse coming toward it by propping and unseating its rider. Fortunately, neither rider was injured. One Day Queen walked off the track under its own power, while Terrific Rocknroll was given a ride in the equine ambulance.

09/13/25³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race No Changes

2nd Race #1 Val Sofia (Tr. R. Zuazo) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$91.40

#3 Fairlea Flying (Tr. A. Valles) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$518.00

These scratches reduced the field to four runners and prompted the cancellation of "Show" wagering.

3rd Race No Changes

4th Race #1Thinking Right (Tr. J. Glenn, Jr.) Loose Track – Stewards – Refund: \$7,223.95

5th Race No Changes

6th Race No Changes

7th Race No Changes

8th Race No Changes

09/13/25⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	605	\$73,081.90
SCOTWINC	1,176	\$217,429.00
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$824,014.20
TOTAL	1,781	\$1,114,525.10

SUNDAY
09/14/25¹

RIDERS EXCUSED

Efrain Hernandez, who was involved in a spill during the afternoon card, was excused from his only mount of the evening. Ruben Lozano called in sick and was excused from his engagements. Replacement riders were announced.

09/14/25²

RULING #133

Ruling #133

Jockey Gabriel Lara 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 Stealer in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 7, 2025.

This ruling was issued after Mr. Lara chose not to appear to mount a defense for his actions in the eighth race last Sunday.

09/14/25³

RULING #134 & #135

Ruling #134

Stable Worker Albert S. Polanco is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1530 (Cases Not Covered by Rules or Regulations – speeding in the barn area). Additionally, Mr. Polanco’s driving privileges on the backstretch of Los Alamitos Race Course are revoked for six months, until March 14, 2026.

Ruling #135

Stable Worker Israel Arriaga is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1530 (Cases Not Covered by Rules or Regulations – speeding in the barn area). Additionally, Mr. Arriaga’s driving privileges on the backstretch of Los Alamitos Race Course are permanently revoked.

The preceding rulings were issued following a hearing with the Stewards regarding citations written by security for backstretch vehicle violations. Mr. Polanco loaned his auto to Mr. Arriaga, who proceeded to take it for a joyride through the stable area at excess speed. Mr. Polanco was contrite for his part in the incident, while Mr. Arriaga gave the impression that he did not feel it was that serious. He stated that where he is from, Guatemala, people speed on the backstretch of stable areas all the time. He was told that if he wanted to speed in a stable area, he is free to do so back in his home country.

09/14/25⁴

REFUND

A refund was ordered in the fourth race as #3 Space Slight, trained by Scott Willoughby, broke through the stall doors of the starting gate, lost the rider, and ran off. The refund from the scratch amounted to \$5,405.35.

09/14/25⁵

ACCIDENT/INQUIRY/NO CHANGE

The inquiry sign was posted after the seventh race as the Stewards reviewed the cause of the accident approaching the finish which involved #7 Bandera De Mexico (J. Gonzalez). The Felix Gonzalez-trained two-year-old suffered what appeared to be a lumbar injury, which caused it to “lock up” and fall. Jockey Gonzalez hit the ground hard, but was found to be in good condition

following an examination by paramedics. The horse was euthanized on the track by Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald.

09/14/25⁶

STEWARDS INQUIRY-NO CHANGE

The inquiry sign was posted after the eighth race (Grade II PCQHRA Breeders Futurity) as the Stewards reviewed two incidents during the race. The first problem was shortly after the start, as the rider aboard #9 The Lady Is A Vamp, checked his mount in the opening strides. After reviewing video of the start, the Stewards unanimously voted to make no change to the placings. The Lady Is A Vamp came out shortly after the start to make contact with the winner, #10 SM My Valentine, tipping that horse to the inside. This tightened things up, forcing jockey Henry Lopez to check. The Stewards felt that the horse which was bothered contributed to its own interference.

The second trouble spot was approaching the 1/16th pole, as #6 Doodah Cartel checked from between horses. Once again, the horse which suffered interference contributed to its own problem as Doodah Cartel drifted out into the hind quarters of #7 Mastros and tipped that horse inward.

09/14/25⁷

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race #6 Cestrand (Tr. G. Haley) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$481.37
- 2nd Race #1 Fool Hearted (Tr. S. Willoughby) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$304.65
- 3rd Race #4 Fear My Legacy (Tr. J. Aleman) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$204.88
- 4th Race #3 Space Flight (Tr. S. Willoughby) Loose Track – Stewards – Refund: \$5,405.35
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes

09/14/25⁸

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	537	\$80,705.70
SCOTWINC	954	\$211,631.80
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,062,088.56
TOTAL	1,491	\$1,354,426.06

SUMMARY

	Fri 9/12	Sat 9/13	Sun 9/14	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	2	1	3	10
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	12
Claims	R	0	2	2	77
Disqualifications	K	1	0	0	17
Inquiries	D	1	2	3	25
Refunds	A	3	4	7	250
Rulings	Y	1	3	4	135
Voided Claims		0	0	0	17

Tom Ward, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj