

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

Report for the Week of Wednesday, February 11, through Sunday, February 15, 2026.

WEDNESDAY2/11/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward has the "honors" this week, and will be handling entries, scratches, changes and panel duties. He will also be writing minutes.

2/11/26²**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

Entries for the Saturday program are being accepted this morning. Since there was no racing at this venue last week due to Super Bowl, it is hoped that entries will fill earlier than usual.

THURSDAY2/12/26¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES**

Entries are being accepted this morning for the Sunday program. Saturday's eight-race program filled by 4:30 PM, with the feature race being the Grade I Winter Derby.

2/12/26²**SATURDAY CHANGES AND PANEL**

Changes for the Saturday card were limited to Lasix corrections. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning via conference call, with two horses making the "hard watch" list.

2/12/26³**HEARING DAY**

There were two financial hearings scheduled for this morning. The early complaint was filed by Equine Sports Medicine against owner Jose Contreras in the amount of \$10,971.84 for work done on two horses. Unfortunately, efforts to contact Mr. Contreras were unsuccessful and therefore a ruling suspending him will be issued this coming weekend.

The second complaint was also filed by Equine Sports Medicine as owner Nicole Dorough was late sending a payment. While she did not appear, we were informed by Equine Sports representatives that Ms. Dorough had agreed to a payment schedule of \$1,200 per month until the debt is resolved.

FRIDAY

2/13/26¹

SUNDAY CHANGES AND PANEL

The Racing Office staff was able to piece together an eight-race card for Sunday. The panel met this morning, with one horse scratched for nagging veterinary concerns and three horses being considered "hard watches". Changes were limited to Lasix adjustments.

SATURDAY

2/14/26¹

RULING #13

Ruling #13

Owner JOSE P. CONTRERAS, having failed to appear to answer charges alleging violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1876 (Financial Responsibility - \$10,971.84 to Equine Sports Medicine) is suspended for violation of rule #1547 (Failure to Appear).

The foregoing ruling was issued following Mr. Contreras' failure to appear for a scheduled financial hearing. Perhaps he will respond when he receives a copy of the ruling suspending his license.

2/14/26²

RULING #14

Ruling #14

Jockey EDUARDO NICASIO is suspended for THREE (3) Racing Days (February 21, 22 and 28, 2026) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1688 (b)(8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than six times during the race) while riding El Gambler J in the seventh race at Los Alamitos Race Course on February 1, 2026.

This ruling was issued after the Stewards reviewed video of the seventh race from February 1, 2026, during which Mr. Nicasio dramatically violated the crop rule by striking his mount twelve times during the 350-yard Maiden Trials event. The rider did not attend the hearing; however, he called to say that he could not rationalize why he struck the horse so many times. The horse he committed the infraction on did not make the finals, but Mr. Nicasio is nonetheless precluded from participating in the race.

2/14/26³

CLAIM VOIDED

A claim deposited prior to the first race by Jesus Nunez for #3 Straker was voided as Official Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald reported that the horse was unsound in its right foreleg during its time in the detention barn. Straker went back to the barn of trainer Jesus Mendoza.

2/14/26⁴

REFUND

A refund was ordered in the fourth race as #1 Badsally, ridden by Damian Cruz, became fractious shortly after stepping on the track, unseated the rider and ran off. The horse was captured quickly but had run into the outside rail prior to being brought to a halt, prompting Racing Veterinarian Moser to recommend that the horse be scratched. The refund amounted to \$3,622.74

2/14/26⁵

STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION

The Inquiry sign was posted after the seventh race as the Stewards reviewed video of the start. Observation of the race itself indicated that the rider aboard #3 Ming Dynasty, Oscar Peinado, was forced to check shortly after the field was dispatched. After reviewing the start and speaking with the riders involved, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify #4 Layenda Candelaria from fifth to seventh position. The horse had made slight contact with #5 Queen Monarch, then came in to shut off the horse to its inside. That horse was denied the opportunity for a better placing. Jockey Jesus Ayala is not riding here tomorrow and will send a representative to review the race with the Stewards.

2/14/26⁶

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race No Changes
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race #9 Rhino (Tr. R. DeLeon) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$240.55
- 4th Race #1 Badsally (Tr. S. Paldanius) Loose track – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$3,622.74
#2 Aguila Azul (Tr. J. Valdez) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$186.30
- 5th Race #2 Epic Wind (Tr. P. Jones) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$360.90
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes

2/14/26⁷

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	876	\$93,839.50
SCOTWINC	1,066	\$254,277.70
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$925,166.55
TOTAL	1,942	\$1,273,283.75

SUNDAY

2/15/26¹

TRAINER OBJECTION - DISMISSED

The Objection sign was posted after the fourth race as Craig Dollase, trainer of the fourth-place finisher, #3 Old Timer, lodged a claim of foul against #6 Tascadero, the second-place horse, for interference in the far turn. Mr. Dollase felt that Tascadero came in, forcing his rider to take up. After speaking with the riders and reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards voted unanimously to dismiss the trainer's objection. Video showed that his horse was the catalyst to the incident. While racing in the middle of a three-horse-spread, Old Timer drifted in to make contact with the horse to its inside, then came out into the hind quarters of Tascadero. That occurrence placed Old Timer on heels and forced the rider to check. Since the horse caused its own problem there was no reason for action by the Stewards.

2/15/26²

ACCIDENT / INQUIRY / NO CHANGE

The Stewards posted the Inquiry sign following the seventh to review the circumstances which prompted #6 Fire Flight (G. Lara) to bolt at the paddock gap and go over the rail. Video review showed that the horse, a three-year-old gelding making its first start for trainer Scott Willoughby, bore out the entire race then made a right turn at the paddock. Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald was on the scene immediately; she reported that Fire Flight had expired by the time she got to him, most likely from a fractured neck caused by the impact. Jockey Lara, who was unseated before the horse left the track, was transported to hospital for observation.

2/15/26³

LATE DECLARATION

A refund was ordered in the eighth race as Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald reported that #5 Muscle Max was unsound during the warmup period and recommended the horse be declared. The refund amounted to \$24,806.40.

2/15/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race No Changes
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race #4 To Speight Her (Tr. S. Morfin) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$382.42
#7 Good Vibes Only (Tr. J. Uranga) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$153.35
- 4th Race No Changes
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race #8 Muscle Max (Tr. E. Andrade) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$24,806.40

2/15/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	601	\$70,462.40
SCOTWINC	876	\$207,534.70
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,060,667.32
TOTAL	1,477	\$1,338,664.42

SUMMARY

	Fri 2/13	Sat 2/14	Sun 2/15	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	1	1	3
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	0	1	1	12
Disqualifications	K	1	0	1	1
Inquiries	D	1	1	2	9
Refunds	A	4	3	7	36
Rulings	Y	2	0	2	14
Voided Claims		1	0	1	6

Tom Ward, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj