

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
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, April 15, through Sunday, April 19, 2026.

WEDNESDAY4/15/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be on hand for entries this week and will also be writing minutes for the period.

4/15/26²**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

The Racing Office crew is hard at work filling a card for Saturday. This card will be the toughest of the two to fill, as Sunday's races will likely consist of trials for the Kindergarten Futurity.

THURSDAY4/16/26¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY PANEL AND CHANGES**

The staff from the Racing Office worked into the dinner hours before putting together an eight-race program for Saturday evening. Three races for two-year-olds are on tap. Entries for Sunday are being accepted today as Kindergarten Trials will highlight the card. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, with nothing of significance to report. Changes for Saturday were one weight correction and one gelding change.

4/16/26²**HEARING DAY**

Groom Roque Diaz was in our office this morning, as he responded to a complaint filed by Board investigators after testing positive for Methamphetamine and Amphetamine. He had been cited by stable security after being observed behaving erratically and sweating profusely. Mr. Diaz admitted using the drug earlier in the day, stating that he had obtained the Meth from an unknown person at the local Trader Joe's near the track. He also said he had used the drug for approximately five years even though he suffers from heart issues. Winners Foundation Executive Director Darin Scharer was contacted and offered that Mr. Diaz has been working with Winners on an outpatient basis for about a month and that they have seen progress. He also related that due to health issues Diaz is not a candidate for in-house rehabilitation. We will discuss the case and formulate a ruling in the coming days.

4/16/26³

CASE WITHDRAWN

A financial complaint filed by Ms. Robyn Gordon, representing Gordon Feed, was withdrawn as the Respondent, Kelly Castaneda, paid the balance in full.

4/16/26⁴

CONTINUANCE GRANTED

A complaint filed by Dr. Ashley Troncatty against Gary Hartunian (DBA Rockingham Ranch) for vet work was put on hold as Mr. Hartunian asserted that he had never seen the complaint. He also voiced concerns that the work was never authorized, along with other reasons for non-payment.

We will send a copy of the complaint to his representatives for review and expect a response within a week.

4/16/26⁵

CASE FINALIZED

The hearing for trainer Scott Willoughby, held on April 9, 2026, was concluded as the Stewards reached a decision in the matter. (Ref. 4-9-26-1) After a thorough review of the facts in the case, we determined that Mr. Willoughby's actions did not merit a sanction. However, there are some policies in place regarding bleeder registration which need review.

4/16/26⁶

VIDEO REVIEW

Jockey Oscar Peinado was in our office to review the eighth race from last Sunday, as his mount had been disqualified for interference. After reviewing videos and discussing the race with the rider, the Stewards unanimously voted to warn him for the infraction, with the admonishment that we expect a stronger effort from him in the future.

FRIDAY

4/17/26¹

SUNDAY CHANGES AND PANEL

The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, resulting in two "hard watch" horses. There were no changes or scratches.

SATURDAY

4/18/26¹

RULING #32

Ruling #32

Groom ROQUE DIAZ is suspended THIRTY (30) days (April 18, 2026, through May 17, 2026) for violation of California Horse Racing Board rules #1489 (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License – positive test Methamphetamine and Amphetamine), #1890 (Possession of Contraband – Methamphetamine) at Los Alamitos Racecourse on March 1, 2026.

Furthermore, ROQUE DIAZ must be evaluated by the Winners Foundation, abide by the terms set by their recommendations, and ordered to sign a testing agreement while holding a license with the California Horse Racing Board. Failure to do so may result in a suspension of all licenses held by ROQUE DIAZ.

The above ruling was issued to finalize the complaint against Mr. Diaz.

4/18/26²

QUARTER HORSE TIMING ISSUE

The first four races, all starting from the 4 ½ furlong chute, were timed automatically with no issues. The fifth through eighth races, one run at 220 yards and three at 300 yards, had to be hand-timed as the electrical connections were not operating.

The trials for the Kindergarten Futurity are tomorrow evening. Hopefully the problem will be solved by then.

4/18/26³

QUIET EVENING

Aside from the above-mentioned problem, all matters taking place during the racing program were routine.

4/18/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race No Changes
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race #5 Bretts Acclaim (Tr. S. Paldanius) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$246.85
- 4th Race #2 Shes Just Fluffy (Tr. F. Rodriguez) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$330.60
#4 Promise Me Kat (Tr. J. Farias) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$82.65
- 5th Race #4 Apollitical V (Tr. J. Nunez) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$87.58
#5 Aj Million Sign (Tr. J. Gonzales II) Ran loose in stable area – Stewards – Refund: \$355.42
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes

4/18/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	662	\$76,928.70
SCOTWINC	1,029	\$262,191.90
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$721,859.58
TOTAL	1,691	\$1,060,980.18

SUNDAY

4/19/26¹

TIMING ISSUE REMEDIED

The timing issue reported in yesterday’s minutes has been fixed. Mr. Jim Porep, Los Alamitos’ resident genius in all things electrical, found a loose wire connection at the starting point and took care of the problem. We will be doing “timer checks” prior to every race, which is normal protocol for trials and finals.

4/19/26²

RIDER CHANGE

Salvador Vargas was replaced in the fifth race as the owner did not want him to ride his filly. Consequently, a “double jockey fee” was ordered. The point rather moot as the horse finished last – by quite a few lengths.

4/19/26³

REFUND RACE 4

A refund was ordered in the fourth race as #2 Brownie Foose became fractious, lost her rider, and fell over the outside rail. Dr. Fitzgerald recommended that the horse be declared. The refund amounted to \$7,527.51. The rider was not injured.

4/19/26⁴

REFUND RACE 5

A second late refund took place, this time in the fifth race. #5 Sumoke N Mirrors broke through the stall doors, unseating the rider in the process, and ran off. The resulting refund came to a total of \$9,449.19.

Outrider Keith Craigmyle made an excellent pick-up as he captured the horse in the far turn with no ill effects to man or animal.

4/19/26⁵

EXCELLENT NIGHT OF TRIALS

The seven trials this evening were run without incident. Perhaps they should have been named the Jose Flores Trials, as the veteran horseman qualified seven of the ten finalists.

4/19/26⁶

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race #2 Apollitical Eye Mrl (Tr. J. Gomez) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$216.37
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race No Changes
- 4th Race #2 Brownie Foose (Tr. R. Zuazo) Late gate – Stewards – Refund: \$7,527.51
#7 Verssace (Tr. J. Nunez) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$158.40

5th Race #5 Sumoke N Mirror (Tr. J. Stinebaugh) Gate issue – Stewards – Refund: \$9,449.19
 6th Race No Changes
 7th Race No Changes
 8th Race No Changes

4/19/26⁷

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	837	\$85,312.40
SCOTWINC	855	\$197,342.90
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,088,709.76
TOTAL	1,692	\$1,371,365.06

SUMMARY

	Fri 4/17	Sat 4/18	Sun 4/19	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	5
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	0	0	0	24
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	4
Inquiries	D	0	0	0	17
Refunds	A	5	4	9	108
Rulings	Y	1	0	1	32
Voided Claims		0	0	0	9

Tom Ward, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj