

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, August 12, through Sunday, August 16, 2026.

WEDNESDAY8/12/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Steward Ron Church was present to supervise entries for Saturday, August 15, 2026, and will record the minutes for this reporting period.

8/12/26²**FATALITY REVIEW**

A fatality review was conducted today for the five-year-old thoroughbred gelding "Damazio". Present at the review were Steward Ron Church, Safety Steward Brice Blanc, trainer Jeff Mullins and DVM Jocelyn Lorbiecki, who chaired the review.

THURSDAY8/13/26¹**ENTRIES AND SCRATCHES**

Steward Ron Church was present to supervise entries for Sunday August 16, 2026, and changes to Saturday's program.

8/13/26²**TRAINER VALENTINE ZAMUDIO - COMPLAINT (Case #26LA0071)**

Trainer Valentine Zamudio appeared before the Board of Stewards in response to a complaint filed against him by the California Horse Racing Board alleging violations of CHRB Rules #1843(a)(d) (Medication, Drugs and Other Substances), #1843.1 (Prohibited Drug Substances), #1843.4 (Multiple Medication Violations (MMV), and #1887 (Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of Horse). He faced the allegations after the horse "MG Cash Payment", second place finisher in the second race at Los Alamitos Racecourse on June 7, 2026, showed the presence of Phenylbutazone in a post-race test sample.

Present at this tape-recorded hearing were the Board of Stewards Ron Church, John Herbuveaux and Tom Ward, respondent Valentine Zamudio, and California Horse Racing Board Supervising Investigator Kevin Kitashima, who presented the case on behalf of the CHRB. Mr. Zamudio was advised of his rights to legal counsel and knowingly waived that right, electing to proceed without representation. After being sworn in, Mr. Zamudio testified on his own behalf

and after the admission of exhibits into the record, the hearing was concluded. Decision forthcoming.

8/13/26³

SAFETY VEST - VIOLATION

Exercise Rider Jose Contreras met with the Stewards and Safety Steward Paul Atkinson today regarding a violation involving an unapproved safety vest while exercising horses. Mr. Contreras acknowledged the mistake and apologized for his poor judgement. Mr. Contreras agreed to comply with safety requirements going forward. Decision forthcoming.

8/13/26⁴

ENTRY PANEL

The entry panel met this morning to review the entries for Saturday's program. Following the review there was one entry designated as a hard watch.

FRIDAY

8/14/26¹

ENTRY PANEL

The entry panel met this morning to review the entries for Sunday's program. Following the review there were no recommended changes from the panel.

8/14/26²

SCRATCHES AND CHANGES

Steward Ron Church was present to supervise scratches and changes to Sunday's program.

8/14/26³

FATALITY REVIEW

A fatality review was conducted today for the six-year-old thoroughbred mare "Mo Town Gal". Present at the review were Equine Medical Director Jeff Blea, Steward Ron Church, Safety Steward Eddie Rich, trainer William McLean and DVM Jocelyn Lorbiecki, who chaired the review.

SATURDAY

8/15/26¹

TRACK VETERINARIAN – SUBSTITUTION

Track Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald DVM will be off this week for personal reasons. Dr. Bryn Moser will fill in during her absences.

8/15/26²

RULING #69

Ruling #69

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1887 (Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of Horse), trainer VALENTIN ZAMUDIO, who started the horse MG Cash Payment, the second place finisher in the second race at Los Alamitos Race Course on June 7, 2026, is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rules #1843 a & d (Medication, Drugs and Other Substances). #1843.1 (Prohibited Drug Substances – Phenylbutazone – class 4, penalty C) and assessed ½ point in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1843.4 (Multiple Medication Violations).

The above ruling was issued after the Stewards considered the evidence and testimony presented at the informal hearing held on Thursday August 13, 2026. The decision was unanimous.

8/15/26³

RULING #70

Ruling #70

Exercise Rider JOSE M. CONTRERAS is fined TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1689.1(c) (Safety Vest Required – wearing unapproved vest).

The above ruling was issued after Mr. Contreras appeared as requested and acknowledged exercising horses with a non-approved safety vest.

8/15/26⁴**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

- 1st Race No Changes
 2nd Race #2 Unbridled Vision (Tr. T. McCanna) Vets List – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$330.22
 3rd Race No Changes
 4th Race No Changes
 5th Race #1 Outlaw Inlaw (Tr. J. Flores) Entered Back – Stewards – Refund: \$104.60
 #4 Val Empire (Tr. R. Zuazo) Injured – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$313.90
 #6 AJ Wild Heart (Jockey Jesse P. Gonzalez) Replaced by Henry Lopez
 6th Race #5 MW Love This Candy (Tr. E. Willis) Unsound – Refund - \$266.69
 7th Race No Changes
 8th Race #6 You Are The Best (Jockey Jesse P. Gonzalez) Replaced by Ricardo Ramirez

8/15/26⁵**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

ON TRACK	1,071	\$84,543.20
SCOTWINC	923	\$223,195.80
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$745,379.13
TOTAL	1,994	\$1,053,118.13

SUNDAY8/16/26¹**CLAIM VOIDED – 2ND RACE**

The claim submitted by Trainer Ricardo Guillen for #5 Favorite Surfer (Tr. Paul Jones) was voided by the Stewards after they were notified by Official Veterinarian Gary Beck, that the two-year-old gelding was unsound in the right foreleg and would be placed on the vet's list. Favorite Surfer was returned to the Paul Jones barn.

8/16/26²**INQUIRY – NO CHANGE – 7TH RACE**

The Stewards posted the Inquiry sign following the seventh race for a review of an incident shortly after the start involving #4 Wired To The Limit (Cesar Ortega) fourth and #5 Go Go Ki Ki Go (Henry Lopez), who finished last.

After interviewing the riders involved and reviewing the video, we decided unanimously to make no change in the original order of finish.

Video shows #4 Wired To The Limit ducked out sharply shortly after the start of the 220-yard quarter horse event, causing #5 Go Go Ki Ki Go to shy and her rider to steady sharply. We agreed that this action constituted interference but believed that it did not cost #5 a better placing because she was racing last when the incident occurred and finished last, several lengths behind the field.

8/16/26³**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

- 1st Race #1 Mr Akin (Tr. S. Sherman) Claimed by Tr. Sergio Morfin
 2nd Race #4 Golden One (Tr. V. Zamudio) Claimed by Tr. Robert Lucas
 #6 Quick Enough (Tr. S. Willoughby) Claimed by Tr. Paul Jones
 3rd Race #1 Running Tiger (Tr. J. Uranga) Claimed by Tr. Santos Perez
 #7 The Key Is Unity (Tr. O. Heredia) Claimed by Tr. Santos Perez
 4th Race No Changes
 5th Race #1 Fenian Soldier (Jockey Jesse Gonzalez) Replaced by Henry Lopez
 #4 Instagate (Tr. E. Willis) Turned over in starting gate – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$15,819.08
 6th Race #2 Another Valiant Sign (Jockey Jesse Gonzalez) Replaced by Henry Lopez
 7th Race #2 Tell Aviv (Tr. M. Fales) Sick – Dr. Moser – Refund: \$274.63
 8th Race #1 Irately (Tr. J. Glenn Jr.) Claimed by Tr. Paul Jones
 #2 Emperador D (Tr. J. Gomez) Claimed by Tr. Angel Aquino
 #3 Favorite Shine (Tr. J. Glenn Jr.) Claimed by Tr. Diego Cervantes

8/16/26⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	694	\$74,115.40
SCOTWINC	855	\$145,248.70
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$796,297.16
TOTAL	1,549	\$1,015,661.26

SUMMARY

	Fri 8/14	Sat 8/15	Sun 8/16	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	9
Cal-Bred Races	0	0	0	0	16
Claims	0	0	8	8	52
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	12
Inquiries	0	0	1	1	34
Refunds	0	4	2	6	218
Rulings	0	2	0	2	70
Voided Claims	0	0	1	1	18

Ron Church, Steward

Tom Ward, Steward

John Herbuveaux, Steward

BOS:RC:dj